CatChanScans
becoming more and more elusive...
Remember,
support the mangaka,
buy your own copy!!
Do NOT share
outside of IRC
without permission.
[P.S. the only ones
who HAVE permission,
are the following:
Lurk, Evil Empire,
Esthetique and MLFS.]
To all those others,
shame shame!!

AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE

5

SETONA MIZUSHIRO

NIGHTMARE
5

Table of contents

Chapter 17.....5

Chapter 18.....55

Chapter 19.....99

Chapter 20.....149

Translation – Christine Schilling
Adaptation – Mallory Reaves
Lettering & Retouch – Eva Han
Production Manager – James Dashiell
Editor – Brynne Chandler

A Go! Comi manga

Published by Go! Media Entertainment, LLC

Houkago Hokenshitsu Volume 5
© SETONA MIZUSHIRO 2006
Originally published in Japan in 2006 by Akita Publishing Co., Ltd., Tokyo.
English translation rights arranged with Akita Publishing Co., Ltd.
through TOHAN CORPORATION, Tokyo.

English Text © 2007 Go! Media Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.

This book is a work of fiction. Names, places and incidents are either a product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means physical or digital without permission in writing from the publisher.

Visit us online at www.gocomi.com
e-mail: info@gocomi.com

ISBN 978-1-933617-47-3

First printed in October 2007

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Manufactured in the United States of America.

AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE Chapter 17

AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE

Our Story So Far

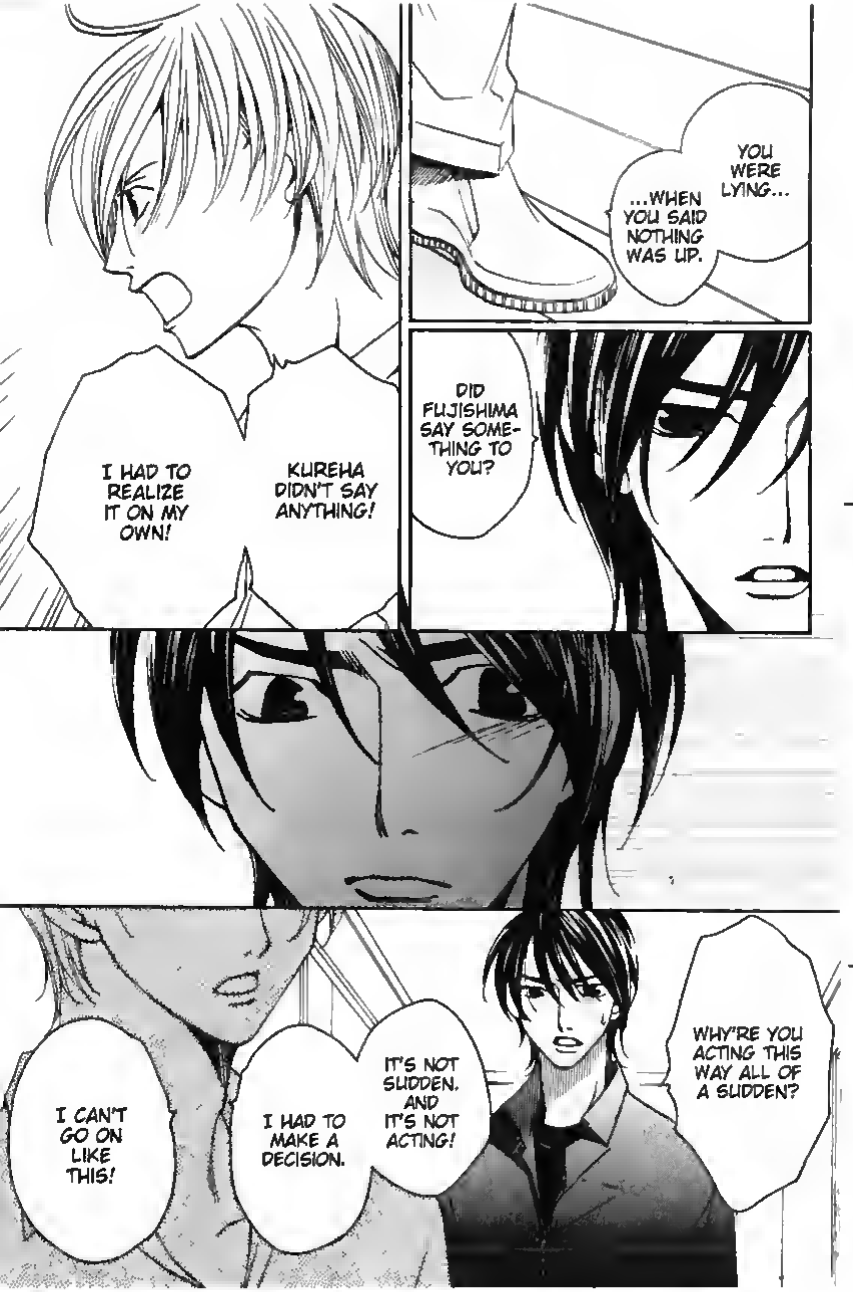
High schooler Mashiro Ichijo's body is half female and half male. One day, he's called down to a secret infirmary to participate in a special "class" he needs to graduate. He learns from another student, Kureha, that each person takes on their true form in this class. When each student reaches their personal goal, their most heart-felt dream will come true. Mashiro decides to use this class to become a true male.

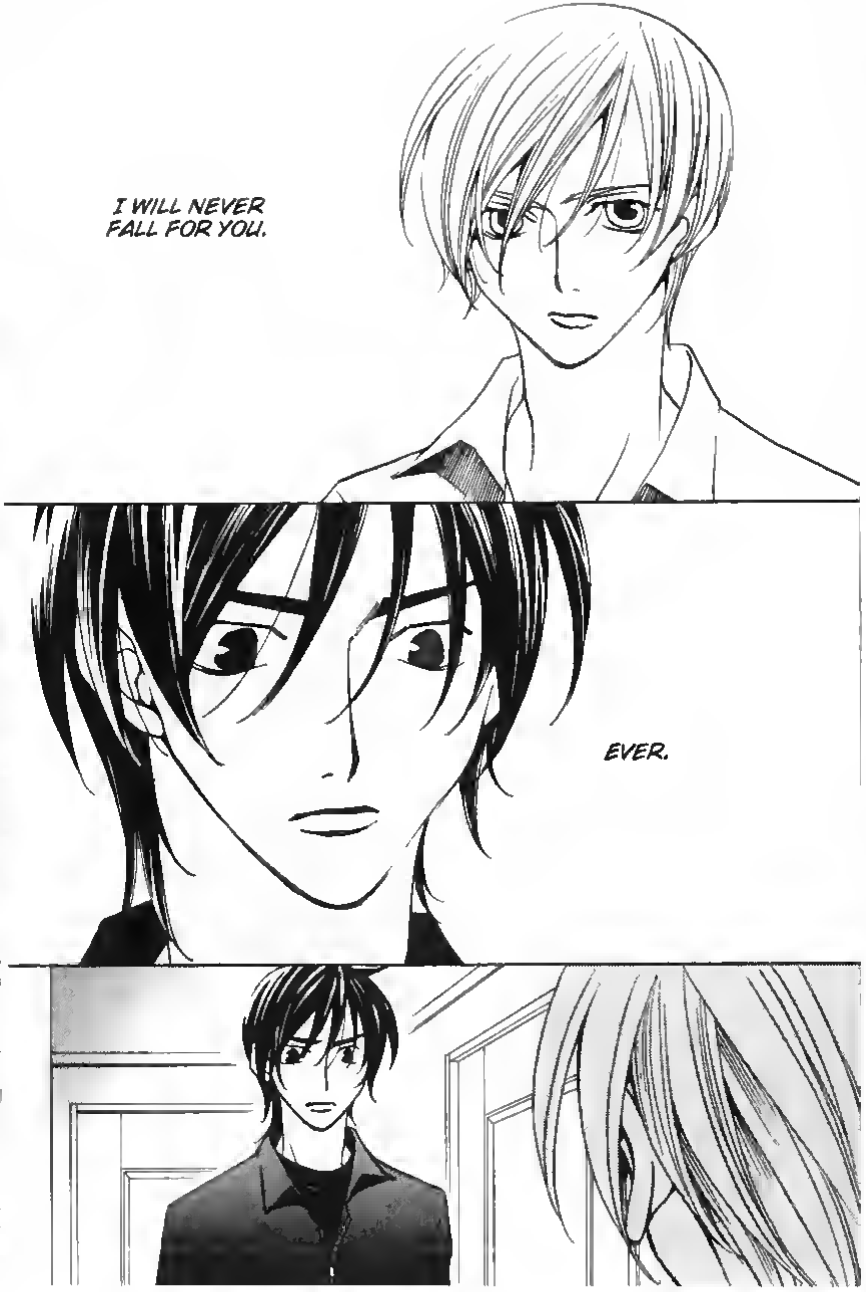
But when another dreamer – a merciless knight – exposes his body's secret and Kureha's tragic past, Mashiro vows to protect the weaker dreamers.

Who is the real person behind the knight? While trying to identify the real people behind the facades, Mashiro is accosted by Sou, a male student he doesn't much like. Sou tells him "you're a girl" and then forces a kiss upon him. Wondering whether Sou could be another dreamer, maybe even the knight, Mashiro becomes obsessed with Sou.

In the midst of it all, his friend Shinbashi, who wishes for nothing but Kureha's happiness, sacrifices himself by graduating in Mashiro's place. Mashiro renews his vow to protect Kureha, and he rejects Sou...but for how long?

Participants in the Class
If you get a hold of the key, you can graduate.
Every time your heart takes damage, a card breaks. When all three break, you are eliminated from the dream.


I HAD TO REALIZE IT ON MY OWN!
KUREHA DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!
DID FUJISHIMA SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?
...WHEN YOU SAID NOTHING WAS UP.
YOU WERE LYING...
I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!
I HAD TO MAKE A DECISION.
IT'S NOT SUDDEN. AND IT'S NOT ACTING!
WHY'RE YOU ACTING THIS WAY ALL OF A SUDDEN?


I WILL NEVER FALL FOR YOU.
EVER.

AND IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS ANYWAY, SOU!
SLAM
YES, IT IS MY BUSINESS!
QUIT SCREWING WITH ME!!
DAMN IT...!
KUREHA...
KUREHA...
...NEEDS ME...
AND WHAT IF I NEED YOU!?
SOU...
YOU...!

YOU REALLY...
...BELIEVE THAT...?
SO YOU COULDN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND.
I SHOULD'VE JUST TAKEN YOU WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE, CORNERED YOU SO YOU COULDN'T RUN.
I SHOULD'VE GONE ALL THE WAY WITH YOU BEFORE.
BUT IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO THINK THAT WAY.
I CAN'T STAND WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.

YOU'RE A GUY, AREN'T YOU!?
THIS SHOULDN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE STRONGER...
...THAN SOME LOVESICK GIRL...!!

I SHOULD'VE MADE YOU MINE...!
NN...!
.....
.....
!!
GRAB
YANK
NO!!
DON'T!!
NO...!
THUD

QUIT PLAYING PRETEND AND WAKE UP.
HOW IS THIS A GUY'S BODY? YOU'RE RIDICU-LOUS.
YOUR...
...BODY.
I KNOW.
...A REAL GUY AT A-
YOU'RE NOT ANYTHING LIKE...
YOU DON'T THINK LIKE A GUY.
STOP IT...!

GUYS ARE RUTHLESS AND DETERMINED. THEY'RE WILLING...
...TO DO ANYTHING TO GET WHAT THEY WANT, NO MATTER WHO IT HURTS.
AT LEAST, THAT'S...
...WHAT YOU'VE SHOWN ME, SOU.
THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY YOU ARE.
"THE KIND OF GUY" I AM...
...HUH?
.....
SO WHAT?

CREAK

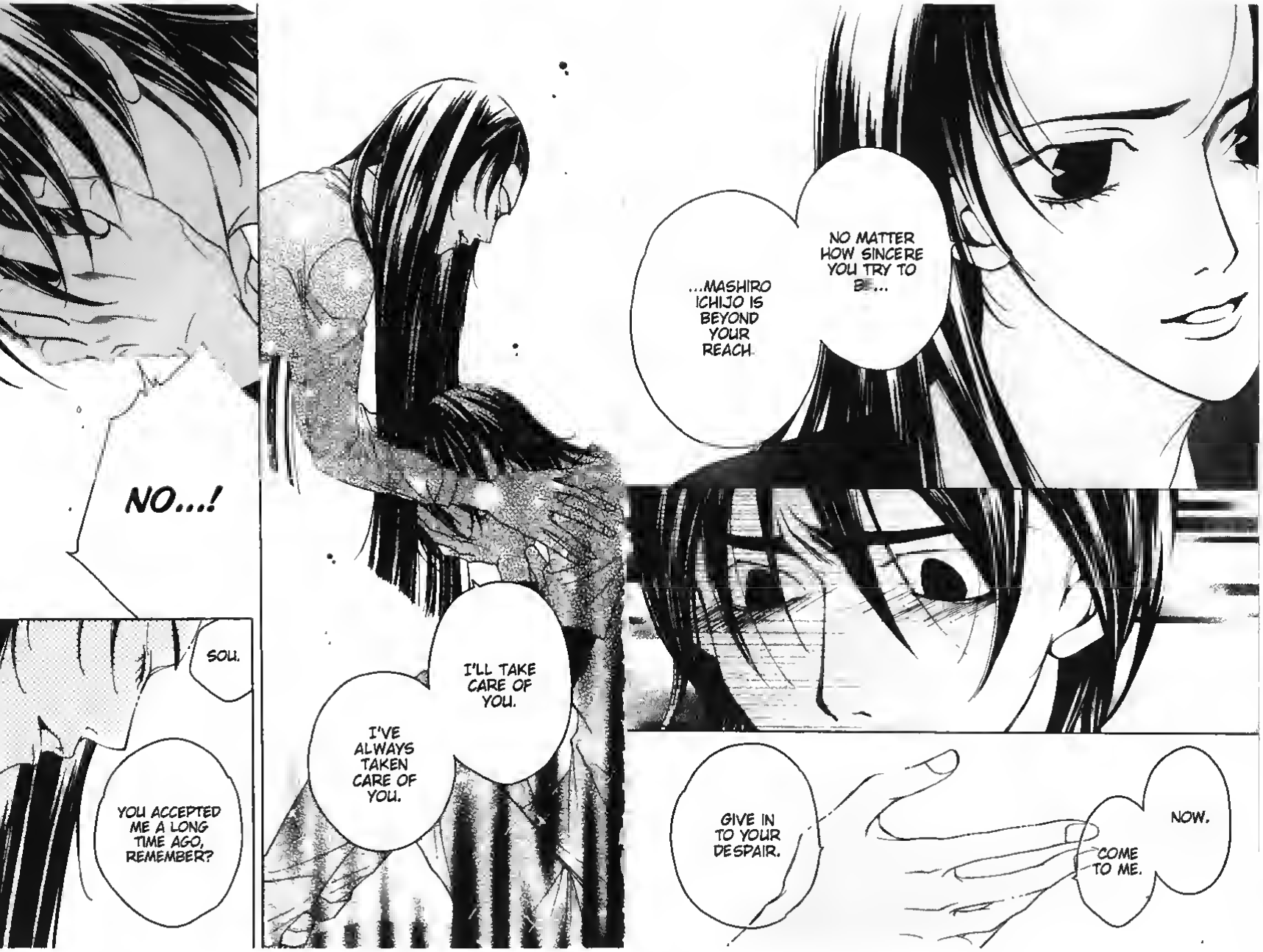
...TO MAKE YOU MINE, NO MATTER WHAT IT TOOK.
YOU'RE RIGHT
I WAS DETER-MINED...
DO YOU REALLY HATE ME?
DO YOU REALLY LOVE FUJISHIMA?

FREEZE
WELCOME BACK.
CREAK
SHUT

COME HERE.
IT'S OKAY.
IT'S NOT OVER YET...!
I'LL TELL HIM...
...NO.

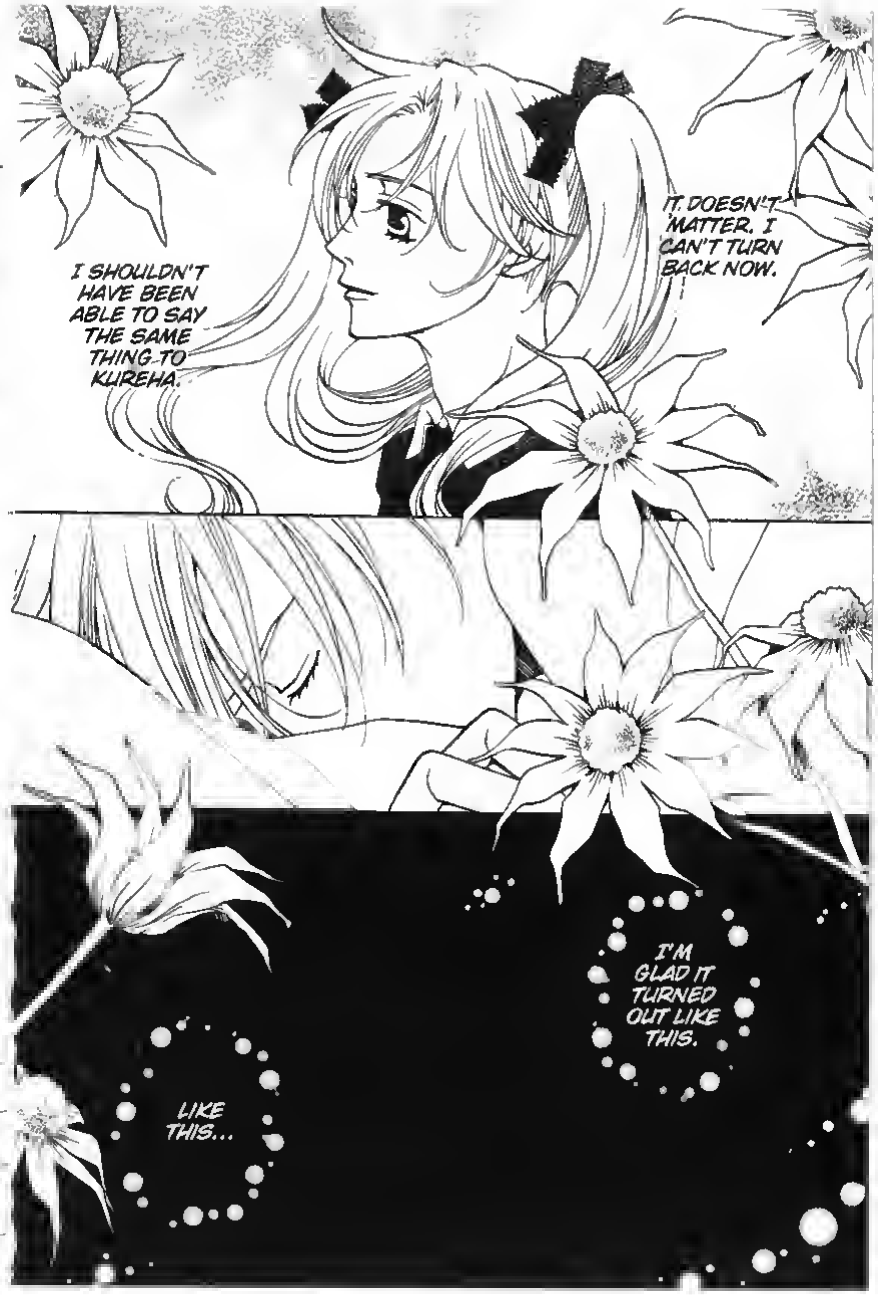
I FEEL SO BAD FOR YOU...
OH, SOU...
.....
I KNEW JUST WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, SO I WASN'T WORRIED.
I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK.
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.
SOU.

HE MIGHT NOT BELIEVE YOU.
...I'M SURE HE'D BE COMPLETELY DISGUSTED.
AND EVEN IF HE DID...
HE CAN'T SAVE YOU.
HE'LL NEVER LIKE YOU.
MASHIRO ICHIJO SEES ALL MEN AS IDEALS.
AND HE'LL NEVER CARE FOR YOU ENOUGH TO TRY.
HE'S NOT STRONG ENOUGH.
HE'S YOUNG AND FOOLISH LIKE THAT.
WILL YOU WIN HIS LOVE BY DESERVING MORE SYMPATHY THAN FUJISHIMA?
AND WHAT WILL THAT DO?
WHAT WOULD HE THINK OF YOU THEN?
OR GAIN HIS ATTENTION THROUGH PITY?
AND EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU!!
EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED!
I'LL TELL HIM EVERYTHING!


NO...!
SOU.
YOU ACCEPTED ME A LONG TIME AGO, REMEMBER?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
I'VE ALWAYS TAKEN CARE OF YOU.
...MASHIRO ICHIJO IS BEYOND YOUR REACH.
NO MATTER HOW SINCERE YOU TRY TO B...
GIVE IN TO YOUR DESPAIR.
COME TO ME.
NOW.

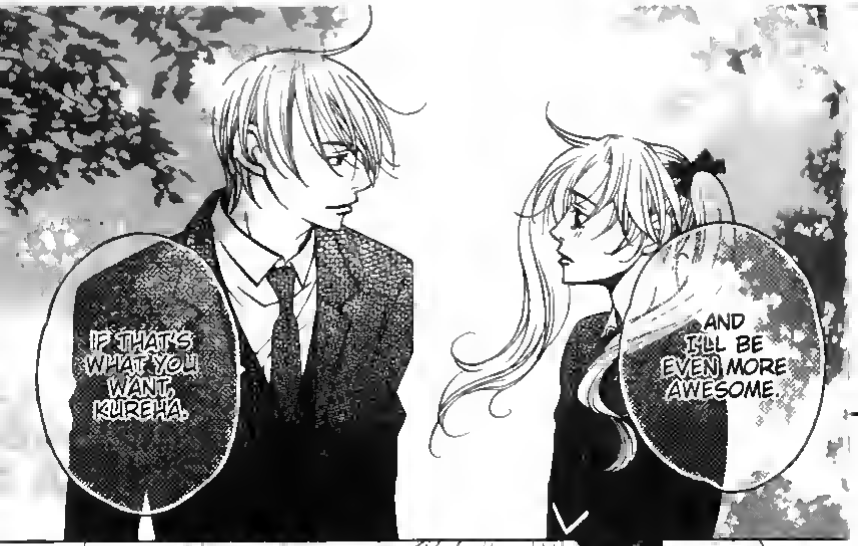
DEAR, SWEET SOU.
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE BUT ME.
IN THE END, I'M ALL YOU HAVE.
I'LL LIVE...
...BY YOUR SIDE...
I THINK...
...I HURT HIM.

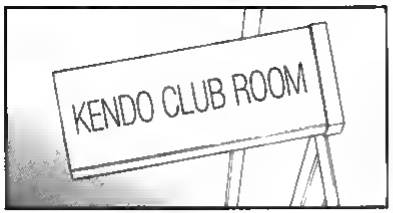
OH, MASHIRO-KUN!
MORNING!

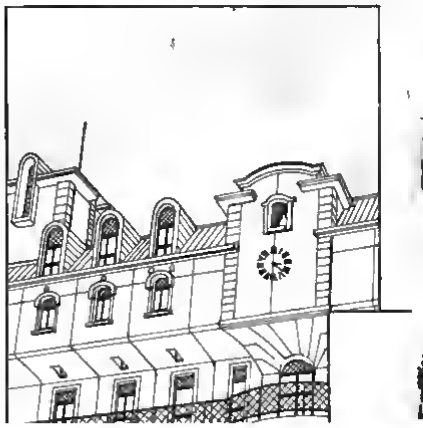

I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAY THE SAME THING TO KUREHA.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. I CAN'T TURN BACK NOW.
LIKE THIS...
I'M GLAD IT TURNED OUT LIKE THIS.

IS HE ABSENT TODAY?
THIS IS DELICIOUS!
I'M SO GLAD! ♡
BUT, I GOTTA SAY THAT ALL I DID WAS PUT IT TOGETHER. YOU CAN'T REALLY CALL IT COOKING...
A ha ha ha ha!
SURE I CAN, THAT'S HOW YOU COOK SANDWICHES! IT STILL COUNTS!
I LOVE THE SALMON.
YEAH, ESPECIALLY THIS ONE!
REALLY ?

MORNING.
Eek! Omigod!!
HERE.
FUJI-KURA.*
HIWADA.*
*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES
HERE.
...MIZU-HASHI?
MIZU-HASHI.

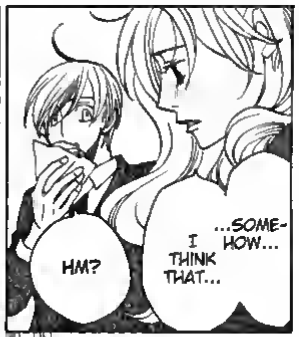

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, KUREHA.
AND I'LL BE EVEN MORE AWESOME.


KENDO CLUB ROOM



...FOR ALWAYS CHANGING MY MIND, BUT...
I'M SORRY...

YOU'RE SO...
...AWESOME, MASHIRO-KUN.


HM?
I THINK THAT...
...SOMEHOW...

THANKS, KUREHA.
...YEAH...
...REALLY?

HE NEVER TOOK IT SERIOUSLY, BUT FOR A WHILE IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS TRYING.
OH, SPEAKING OF.
MIZUHASHI HASN'T BEEN TO PRACTICE IN A WHILE. DO YOU KNOW WHY?
HE'S BUILT FOR IT.
HE'D BE GREAT IF HE JUST TRIED HARDER.
SOU MIZU-HASHI...
...HASN'T BEEN IN CLASS THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS EITHER...
THAT SO? YOU THINK HE'S SICK?
I... DON'T KNOW...
"STOP IDLING AND COME TO PRACTICE!"
WELL, IF YOU SEE HIM, TELL HIM SOMETHING FOR ME.
Y...YES, SIR..
.....
.....

BUT ONLY IF YOU PROMISE NOT TO QUIT AGAIN.
YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO COME BACK.
I HAD A LOT GOING ON BEFORE, BUT THINGS ARE BETTER NOW.
...I WON'T.
...STARTING TODAY, I'D LIKE TO TAKE KENDO AGAIN, IF I CAN.
YES, SIR!
WELL THEN, IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK.
I HOPE SO.
...EVEN HARDER NOW.
I WANT TO TRY...

FINISHED ALREADY?
...SOU.

I'LL JUST GIVE HIM THE MESSAGE AND LEAVE.
I'LL KEEP IT SHORT AND SWEET.
I'LL JUST SAY "THE KENDO CLUB HAS A MESSAGE FOR YOU."
I WONDER IF HE'S SLEEPING...
...IT SURE IS QUIET...

...SEE?
ISN'T THIS EVEN BETTER WHEN BOTH PEOPLE LOVE EACH OTHER?
.....
SOU.
I LOVE YOU.

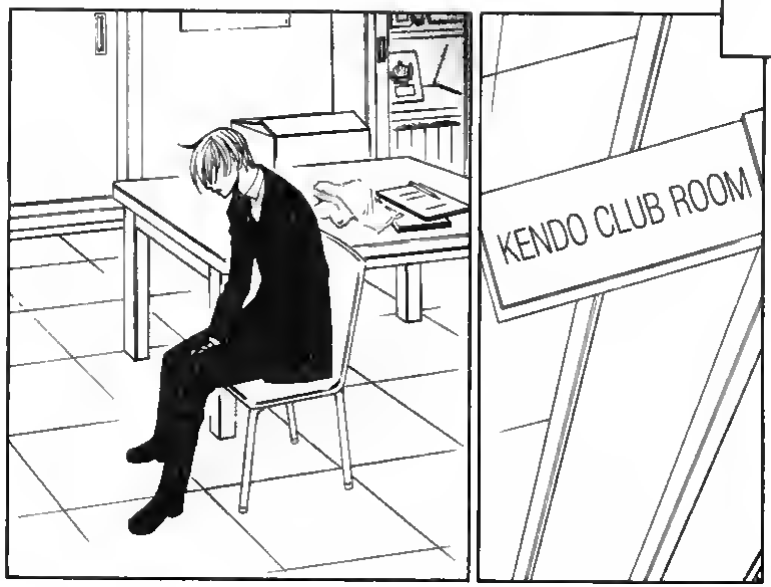
...SOU...
UM...

...ABOUT WHEN WE...
AND THEN EVERYONE LAUGHED...
THUD

I THINK I'LL QUIT.
THAT'S ANNOYING.
HE ASKED ME...TO TELL YOU THAT.
HE SAYS IF YOU JUST PUT YOUR MIND TO IT, YOU COULD BE REALLY GOOD...
BECAUSE YOU'RE MADE FOR IT.
DID YOU REJOIN THE CLUB?
...Y... YEAH...
OH, AND...
I'LL COME BY LATER TO RESIGN.

TMP
WHAT?
I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
ER...
KUROSAKI-SEMPAI SAYS...
...TO COME BACK TO THE CLUB...
...TO COME BACK TO THE CLUB.
KUROSAKI-SEMPAI SAYS...

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE GIVING ME THAT LOOK, BUT...
...DON'T. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
I DON'T WANT TO TOUCH YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO KISS YOU.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOU ANYMORE.
I'M NOT THINKING ABOUT YOU.
I DON'T CARE.
I'M OVER YOU.
SO DON'T WORRY.


KENDO CLUB ROOM

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOU ANYMORE.
I DON'T CARE.

I'VE BEEN CONSIDERING ENTERING US IN A TOURNAMENT NEXT MONTH.
SINCE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PRACTICING...
...YOU'D BETTER WORK HARD TO MAKE UP FOR IT-

RATTLE

OH, ICHIJO.
YOU'RE HERE.
QUIT ZONING OUT AND GET CHANGED, OKAY?
OH... SURE. SORRY...

IT'S OKAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT IF YOU'RE UPSET.
I WON'T SAY ANY-THING.
I WON'T PRY.
NOBODY'S LOOKING.

...NO, NOTHING...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
...ICHIJO?
I'LL STOP... IN A SECOND...
I'LL BE OKAY.
I CAN'T...
...MAKE IT STOP.

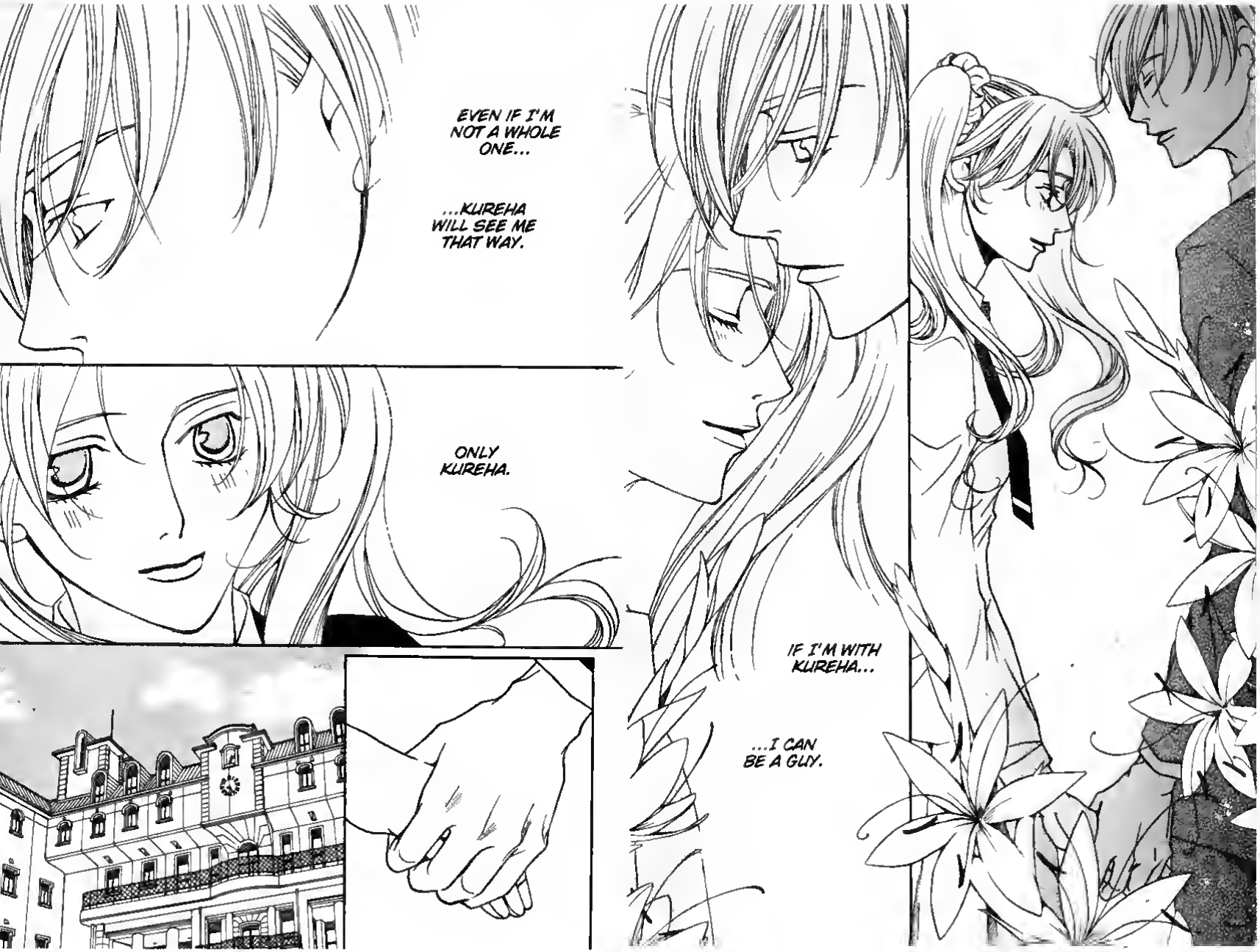
AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE Chapter 18

Chapter 17 / OVER

I'M A FAILURE.
AFTER I'D FINALLY DECIDED TO START LIVING AS A MAN...
...I LET MYSELF FALL APART.
AFTER THAT, KUROSAKI-SEMPAI ACTED LIKE NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.
AND I WAS ABLE TO CALM DOWN. BUT...
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND MY OWN WEAKNESS.
I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M SO UNCERTAIN.
DID YOU SEE THIS?
IT SAYS YOU CAN GET A DISCOUNT TICKET!
I KNOW, I SAW!
I GOT ONE, TOO. I'M TOTALLY GOING!
YEAH!

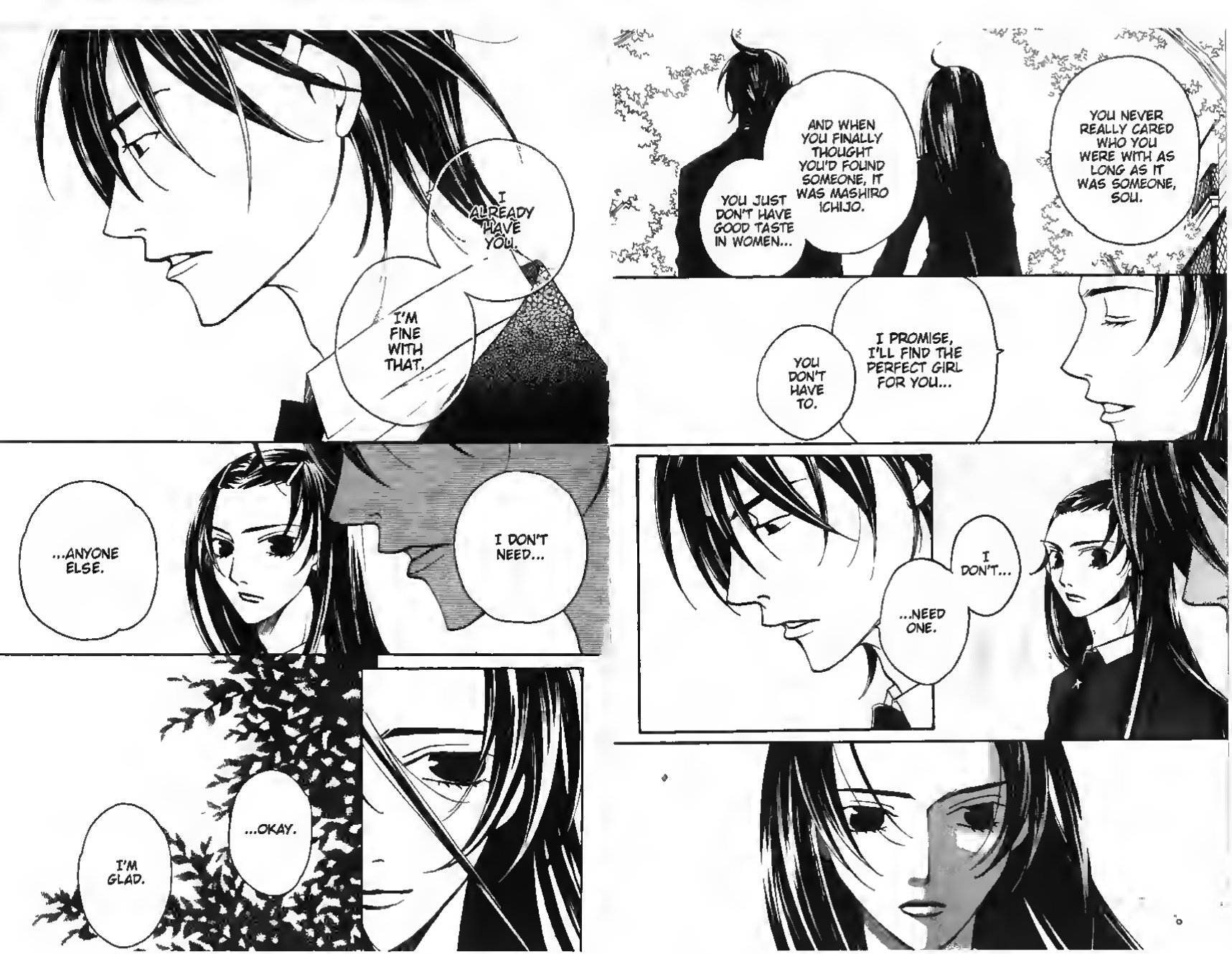
I WOULDN'T REALLY FIT IN WITH ALL THE JUMPING AND SQUEALING.
ALL YOU GIRLS ARE GOING, RIGHT?
IT SOUNDS FUN, BUT...
I'LL PASS.
YOU'RE JUST NOT GOOD WITH HAUNTED HOUSES, IT'S FINE. ♡
♥How cute.
OKAY OKAY, WE GET IT. ♡
I'D JUST FEEL WEIRD BEING THE ONLY GUY THERE!
THAT'S NOT IT!!
YEAH, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT!
OH, YOU'RE JUST TOO SCARED!
IT'S ALWAYS GUYS WHO'RE AFRAID OF ROLLER COASTERS AND HAUNTED HOUSES.
I'M TELLING YOU, THAT'S NOT IT!
GIVE ME A BREAK ...!

Mystery Land
Grand Opening Celebration!
Queen of DEATH
WELCOME TO THE CASTLE OF THE DEAD QUEEN
HUH...
IT'S A NEW SCARY HOUSE!
IT'S A FLYER FOR MYSTERY LAND.
THEY WERE POSTED IN THE LOBBY FOR EVERYONE TO TAKE.
HUH?
MASHIRO-KUN, DID YOU SEE THIS?
IT'S ONLY SCARY FOR KIDS. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
COME ON, REALLY?
IT LOOKS SO CREEPY!
A discount eh?
I WAS WONDERING WHAT EVERYONE WAS LOOKING AT. THIS WAS IT?
UMMM...
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WANNA COME WITH US, MASHIRO-KUN?
EVERYONE'S GOING THIS SATURDAY. ♡


EVEN IF I'M NOT A WHOLE ONE...
...KUREHA WILL SEE ME THAT WAY.
ONLY KUREHA.
IF I'M WITH KUREHA...
...I CAN BE A GUY.

AND WHY NOT? ♡ IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE CAN SEE US.
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE IS.
ANYWAY, YOU SHOULDN'T BE HOLDING HANDS WITH ME.
SOU.
YOU STILL DON'T WANT TO BE WITH ME?
THAT'S FINE. I'LL FIND A GOOD GIRL FOR YOU.

SOU.
HOW'D TODAY GO?
...
HOW'D IT GO?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WITH MASHIRO ICHIJO. ♡
I DIDN'T SEE HIM.
I HAVE NO REASON TO TALK TO HIM.
YOU'RE TRYING SO HARD TO FORGET ABOUT HIM, AREN'T YOU?
I DON'T HAVE TO TRY.
HE'S JUST ANOTHER STUDENT NOW.
JUST ANOTHER GUY IN MY CLASS.


YOU NEVER REALLY CARED WHO YOU WERE WITH AS LONG AS IT WAS SOMEONE, SOU.
AND WHEN YOU FINALLY THOUGHT YOU'D FOUND SOMEONE, IT WAS MASHIRO ICHIJO.
YOU JUST DON'T HAVE GOOD TASTE IN WOMEN...
I PROMISE, I'LL FIND THE PERFECT GIRL FOR YOU...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
I DON'T...
...NEED ONE.
I ALREADY HAVE YOU.
I'M FINE WITH THAT.
I DON'T NEED...
...ANYONE ELSE.
...OKAY.
I'M GLAD.

I'M SURE IF THE DREAM IS MINE, IT'LL BE SOMETHING NICE...
I'M SO HAPPY RIGHT NOW.
...I'LL PROTECT YOU, KUREHA. DON'T WORRY.
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF DREAM IT IS...
I HOPE IT'S NOT A BAD DREAM.
KISS ME.
...MASHIRO-KUN.

*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES
OH!
UH, WELL...
ALL I DID WAS MICRO-WAVE IT...
I THINK THE CREAM KORO-KKE*. ♡
...YOU STILL PUT TOGETHER A GREAT MENU.
EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T COOK...
...OH. RIGHT...
HUH?
IT'S THURS-DAY. WE HAVE THAT CLASS...
WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE BEST?
MM... IT WAS DELI-CIOUS.
HOW DID YOU LIKE TODAY'S OBEN-TO*?
MASHIRO-KUN

...IF YOU REALLY FEEL FOR ME...
...CAN'T YOU SHOW IT A LITTLE MORE?
THAT'S FINE AND ALL, BUT...
YOU KISS ME...
...LIKE A FAIRY-TALE PRINCE.
YOU SAY YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME, MASHIRO-KUN.
SO, I WANT TO FEEL YOUR PASSION.
CAN YOU...
...MANAGE...
...THAT?

...THAT'S IT?

...THAT WAS PERFECT.
MASHIRO-KUN, YOU REALLY ARE...
...SO AWESOME
I CAN'T BELIEVE I LEARNED THAT FROM SOU...

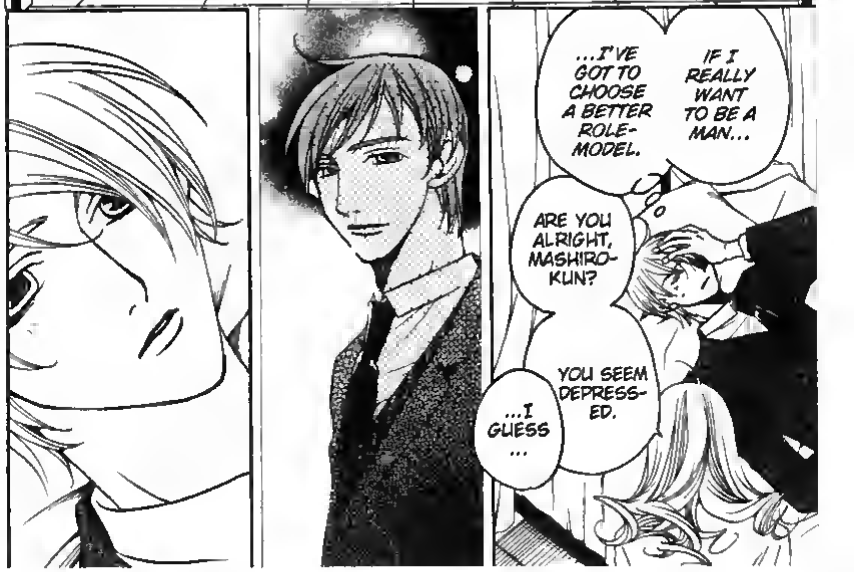
...PASSIONATE KISS.
A MORE...
I THINK...
I CAN DO THAT...
...I REMEMBER...
...HOW THAT FELT.

HE STANDS TALL AND UPRIGHT.
KUROSAKI-SEMPAI.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN KIND AND HONEST.
HE'S CALM AND DIGNIFIED.

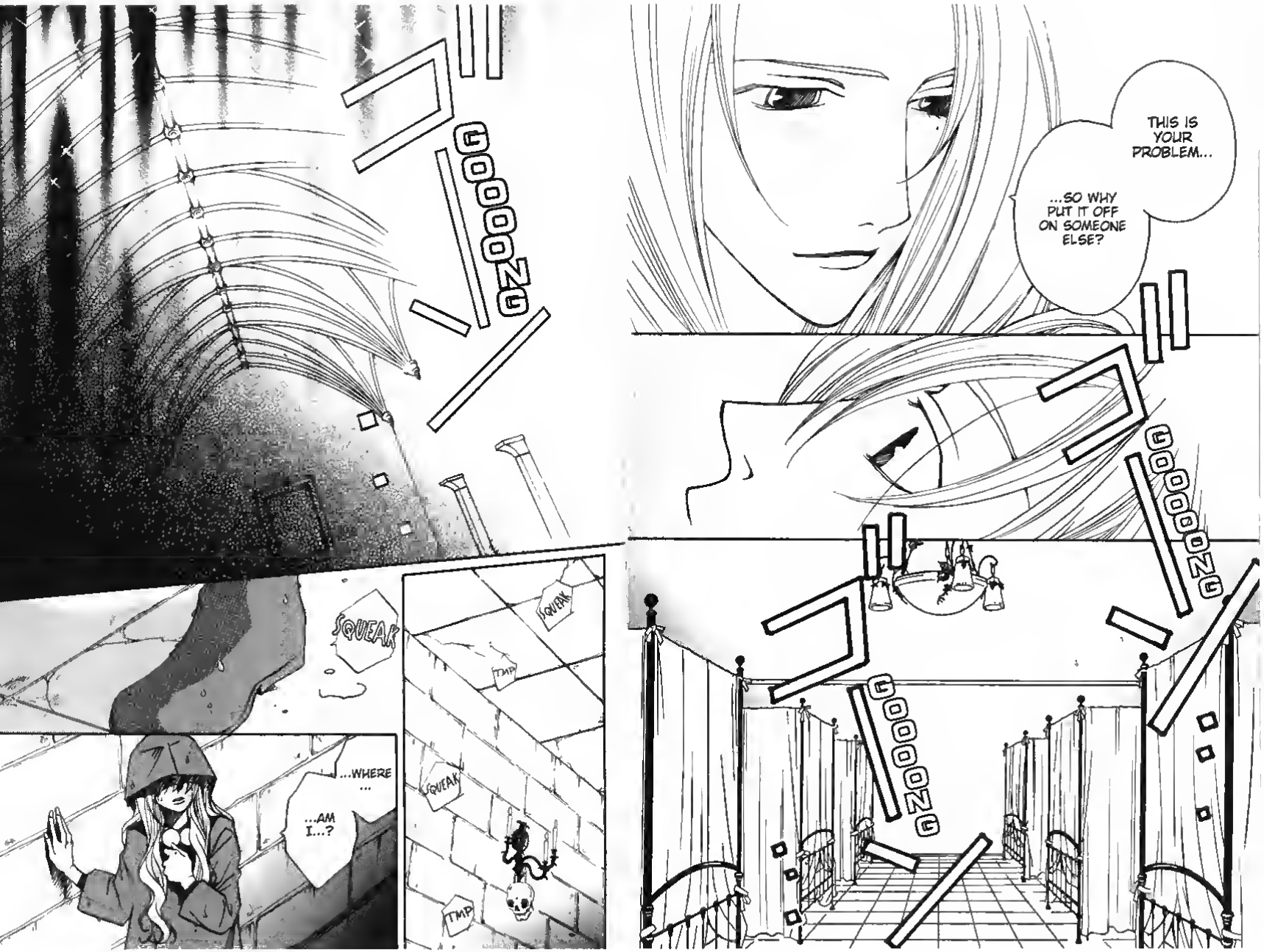
THAT'S RIGHT.
I WANT TO BE SOMEONE LIKE HIM.

MASHIRO-KUN.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO GRADUATE, MASHIRO-KUN?
SOMEONE LIKE KUROSAKI-SEMPAI...

HOW FAR HAVE I FALLEN?

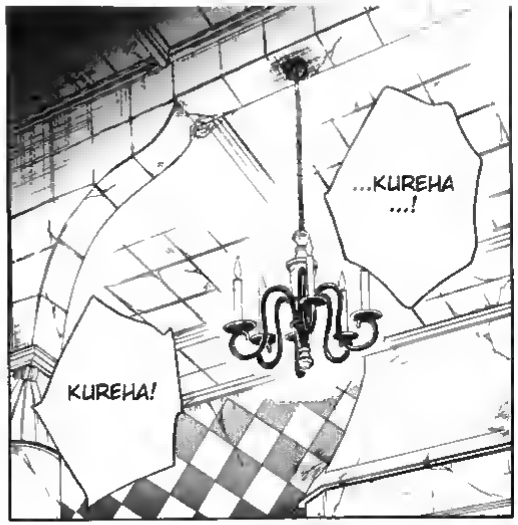

...I'VE GOT TO CHOOSE A BETTER ROLE-MODEL.
IF I REALLY WANT TO BE A MAN...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MASHIRO-KUN?
YOU SEEM DEPRESS-ED.
...I GUESS ...

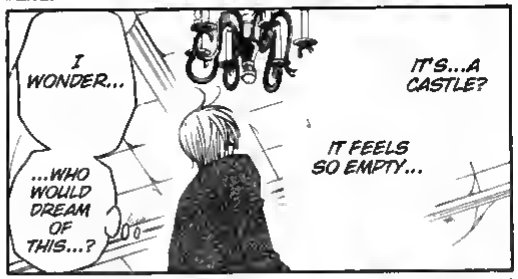
YOU'RE...
...RIGHT, BUT...
YOU AREN'T HAPPY AS YOU ARE?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...!
I'M NOT LOST ANYMORE.
I KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
BUT...!
WELL...
THERE'S THIS GIRL I'M WITH, AND...
...I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE HER, SO...
...HUH?
IT'S OKAY TO GRADUATE WHENEVER YOU LIKE.
ONCE YOU'RE HAPPY AS YOU ARE...
ONCE YOU'VE FILLED WHATEVER HOLE IS INSIDE YOU...
ONCE YOU'VE FOUND AN ANSWER YOU CAN TRULY UNDERSTAND...
...YOU CAN GRADUATE.
YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE FOREVER, RIGHT?


GOOONG
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
TMP
SQUEAK
TMP
...WHERE ...
...AM I...?
THIS IS YOUR PROBLEM...
...SO WHY PUT IT OFF ON SOMEONE ELSE?
GOOOONG
GOOOONG
GOOOONG

This is the blazer version of the girls' uniform I'd first planned.

I think it looks really good on Mashiro, but after thinking, "In his torso shots, it's hard to distinguish from the guys' uniform" and "Hmm, maybe it could fit the dark fantasy feeling more?" I changed the design.





...RATHER FAMILIAR, NO?
AI MIZU-HASHI.
HELLO.
MASHIRO ICHIJO. ♡
SHE'S... SOU'S SISTER...
H... HEY...
.....
IT'S THE "DEAD QUEEN OF THE CASTLE"!
THAT PORTRAIT SEEMS...
THIS IS...
...THAT SCARY HOUSE ADVER-TISED ON THE FLYER.
Mystery Land
Grand Opening Celebration!
+ Queen of DEATH +
WELCOME TO THE CASTLE OF THE DEAD QUEEN

THOOM
CLICK
RRRRUMBLE
WHA ...!?

DASH
THERE'S AN EMERGENCY EXIT...!
IT MIGHT LET US OUT OF HERE.
WATCH OUT!
THAT'S JUST AN ILLUSION!
IT'S ONLY A DRAWING OF A DOOR ON THE WALL.
SHE'S RIGHT.

GO STAND OVER THERE, OKAY?
HUH?
WHO CARES? IT'S NOT REAL.
I GET THAT IT'S A HAUNTED HOUSE, BUT THIS IS REALLY DANGEROUS.
Who'd dream something like this?
I ALMOST DROWNED BACK THERE.
...I MEAN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
...THANKS ...
She's
HUH?
HERE IT COMES!
BRACE YOUR-SELF.
BOOM

RUN!
RRRUMBLE
FWOOSH!

SSSHHH
HURRY!!
SSSSSSHHHHHHH

SSSSHHH

RRRRUMBLE
HURRY UP AND GET BACK HERE!
THE FLOOR'S SINKING!

SSSSHHH

TODAY, YOU GRADUATE.
COME ON. WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE KEY.
...WHY...?
SO, YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE.
YOU'RE HURTING SOU BY HANGING AROUND.
BECAUSE I WANT YOU GONE.

CRACK
AH...!
OW...
I EVEN TOLD YOU IT WAS COMING!
OH, PLEASE. YOU REALLY LOST A BEAD FROM THAT?
HUH!? WAIT A...
WASN'T THERE, HUH? COME ON.
WHA...?
THE KEY?
THUD
I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF YOU HAD THE KEY THIS TIME.
It's handed
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GONNA ATTACK YOU AGAIN.

BEYOND THIS DOOR...
...IS THE WORLD YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO LIVE IN.
KOUKOKU SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
WHATEVER ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
SHE WON'T SUFFER. SHE'LL NEVER EVEN KNOW YOU'RE GONE. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GRADUATE.
I'M NOT GRADUATING UNTIL SHE DOES! I WON'T LEAVE HER!
KUREHA WILL SUFFER IF I JUST LEAVE!
WHO'RE YOU TO DECIDE THAT FOR ME!?
COME ON.
FOLLOW ME.
...IN HOW MUCH SHE NEEDS YOU, I THINK YOU'RE DOWNRIGHT OVERDUE FOR GRADUATION.
YOU JUST WANT TO BE IMPORTANT TO HER, DON'T YOU? IF YOU'RE THAT CONFIDENT...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU'RE MORE THAN READY.
YOU'VE ALREADY ...
...DECIDED YOU WANT TO LIVE AS A MAN, RIGHT?

RATTLE
LISTEN.
PAIN IS A GOOD TEACHER.
...IS DOING HER MORE HARM THAN GOOD.
THAT SELF-RIGHTEOUS "SHE NEEDS ME" ATTITUDE...
...BUT YOUR LITTLE PRINCESS MIGHT BE STRONGER THAN YOU THINK.
I BET SHE DOESN'T KNOW IT YET...
...THEN...
THEN WHY DON'T YOU GRADUATE!?
I SUPPOSE IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW WHO I AM.
GOOD QUESTION.
BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN HURT?
...WHY ARE YOU SO STRONG?
I LOVE HIM.
I DON'T WANT TO.
I WANT TO STAY WITH SOU.
I DON'T...
...SEE THE KEY DOWN THERE.
LET'S FIND THE NEXT TRAP.
I PROMISED I'D COME FIND HER, BUT...
BUT MAYBE THEY WERE KUREHA'S.
...THOSE BLOODY HANDPRINTS BELONGED TO SOMEONE.
IT'S JUST...
WHY SO PALE?
SO WHAT? IT'S JUST A DREAM!

TMP
TMP
KUH...

SOU LOVES ME AS I LOVE HIM. WE'RE FINE WITH JUST THE TWO OF US.
I DON'T CARE HOW IT SOUNDS.
THAT SOUNDS... KIND OF WRONG.
YOU'RE HIS SISTER, RIGHT ...?
THERE'S A WIRE TRAP HERE.
CAREFUL.
OOPS.
...!
...I DON'T SEE IT... BUT...
LOOK CLOSELY.
IS THE KEY THERE?
RATTLE RATTLE
THUD

SPLIT
Ah ha ha!
CLANG
BUT I'M LOOKING FOR THE KEY THIS TIME.
YOU LOOK SO CUTE, I'M ALMOST TEMPTED TO LEAVE YOU THERE.
YUP. YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
WHAT, SO NOW YOU TWO'VE TEAMED UP?
DAMMIT ...
OH MAN, YOU LOOK SO LAME!
SLASH
SORRY.
SLICE
POOF
CLANG
CLANG

...LIH...
HUH?
LET'S GO.
OKAY, I KNOW WHERE IT IS.
...ALL THE DREAM-ERS.
THAT MEANS WE'VE GONE THROUGH...
HE DIDN'T HAVE IT, EITHER?
WHAT?
...ANSWER ONE QUES-TION?
COULD YOU PLEASE...
HM?
EXCUSE ME...AI-SAN?
...SOU?
IS THE KNIGHT...
IS...
CONSIDER IT A GOODBYE PRESENT.
ALL RIGHT.
THAT'S WHY YOU COULDN'T GRADUATE YET? ALL THAT WORRY OVER SUCH A LITTLE THING...
...OH, YOU.

HE IS.
THAT HAUGHTY SUIT OF ARMOR... THAT HOLLOW DREAMER WHO TRIED TO MAKE YOU HIS...
...IT'S SOU.

...IT'S SOU.

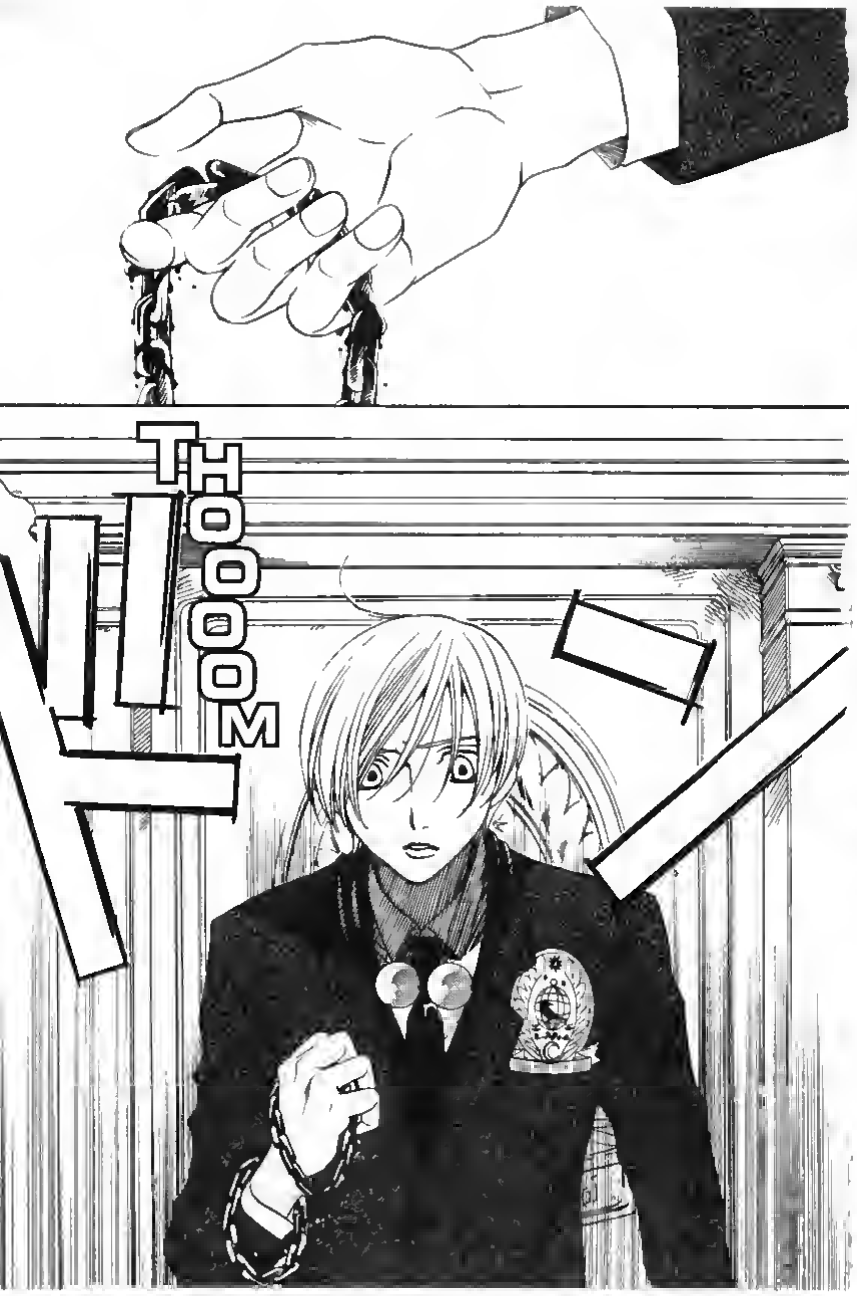
THERE MUST...!
THERE MUST BE A REASON!
TELL ME WHY!
WHY IS THAT SOU'S TRUE FORM!?
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM ...!?
HE WANTED TO TELL YOU.
ABOUT WHAT HAP-PENED.
ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING.
HE WANTED TO TELL YOU ABOUT EVERYTHING.
...YOU'RE LYING...!
IF I TOLD YOU THAT, WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME?
YOU ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT'S CONVE-NIENT FOR YOU.
SUCH A SELFISH, HYPOCRITICAL HERO...
TEE HEE
YOU WANTED ME TO TELL YOU IT'S NOT HIM?
YOU DON'T LIKE MY ANSWER?
AM I? YOU KNEW THE TRUTH ALREADY, DIDN'T YOU?

RRRRRUMBLE
FAREWELL, MASHIRO ICHIJO-KUN.
I HOPE...
...YOU'LL LIVE YOUR DREAM BEYOND THAT DOOR.
AI-SAN...?
CLANK
RRRRUMBLE

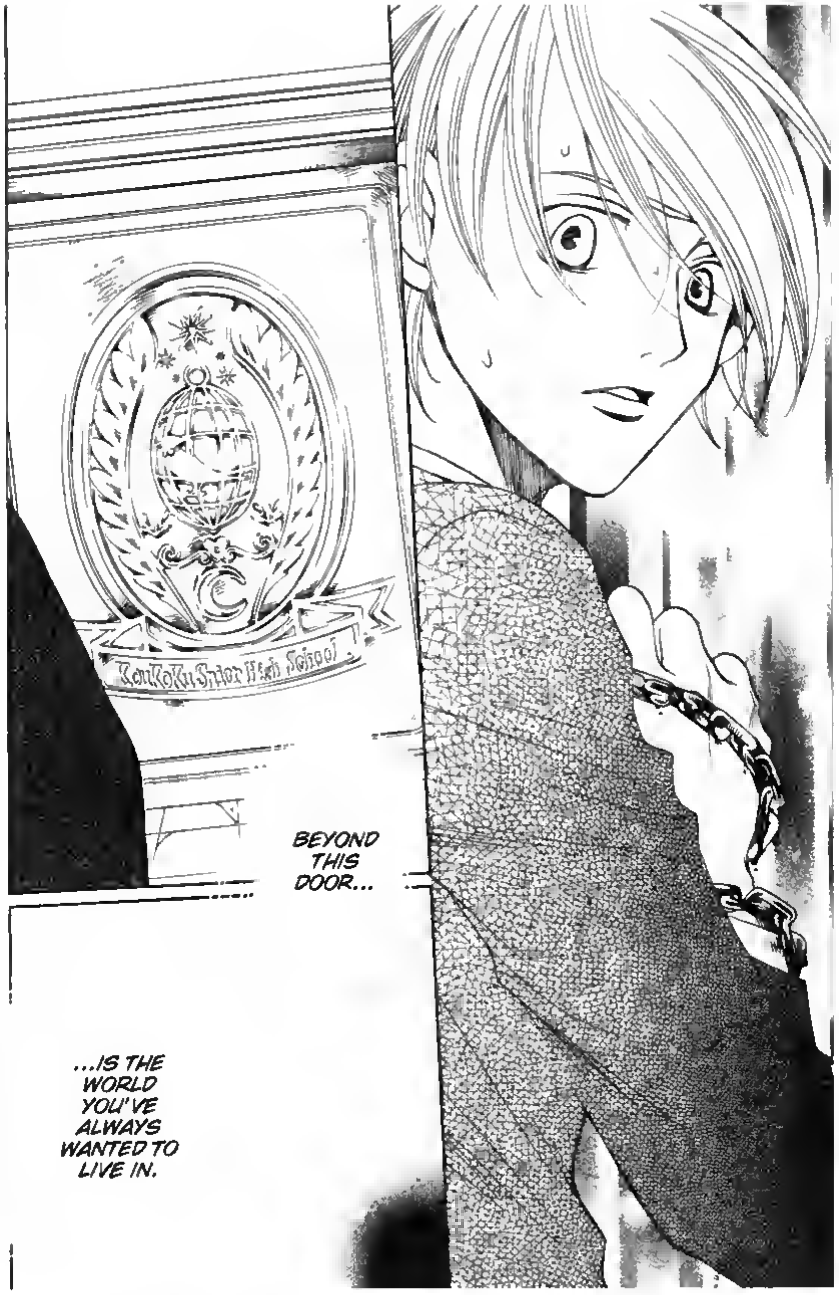
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T TELL YOU.
CLICK

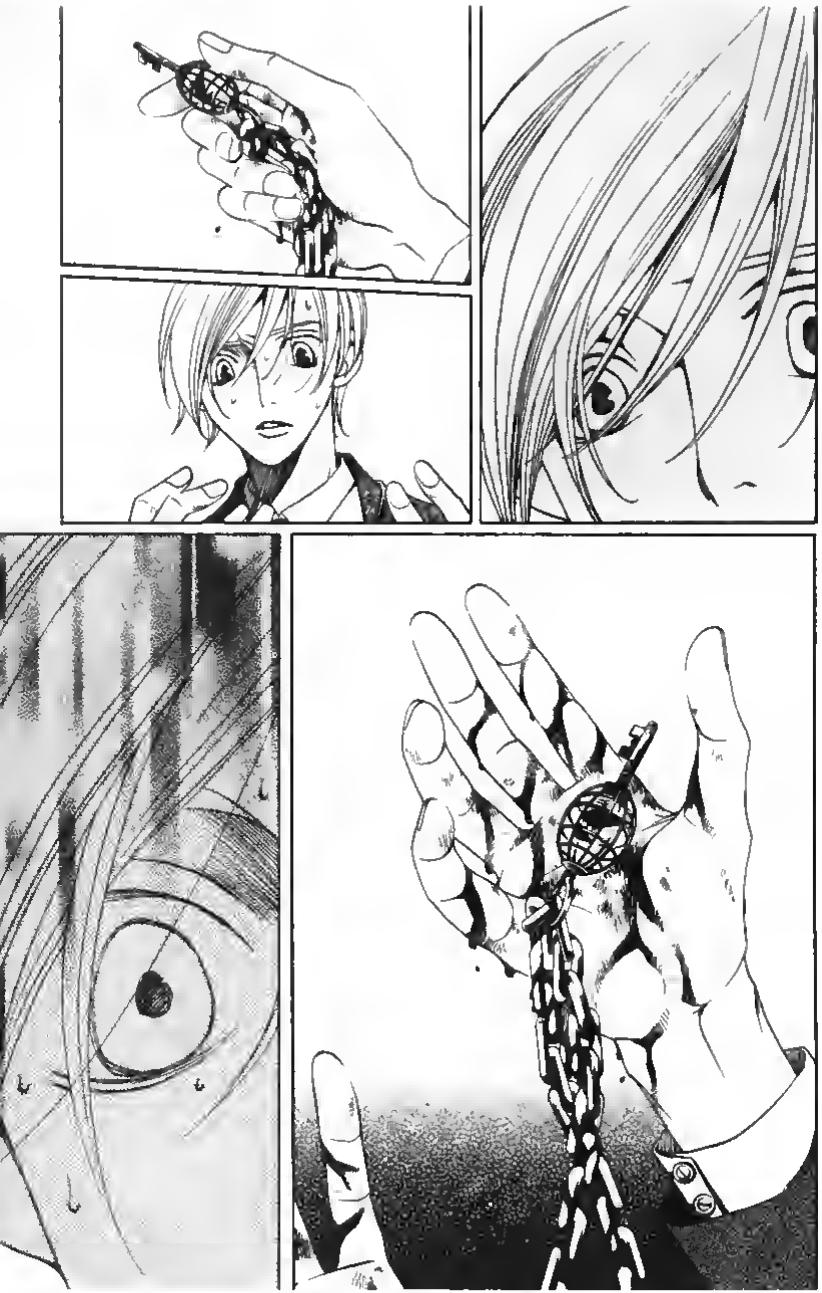
BUT YOU REJECTED HIM.
YOU LOST YOUR CHANCE. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO KNOW.

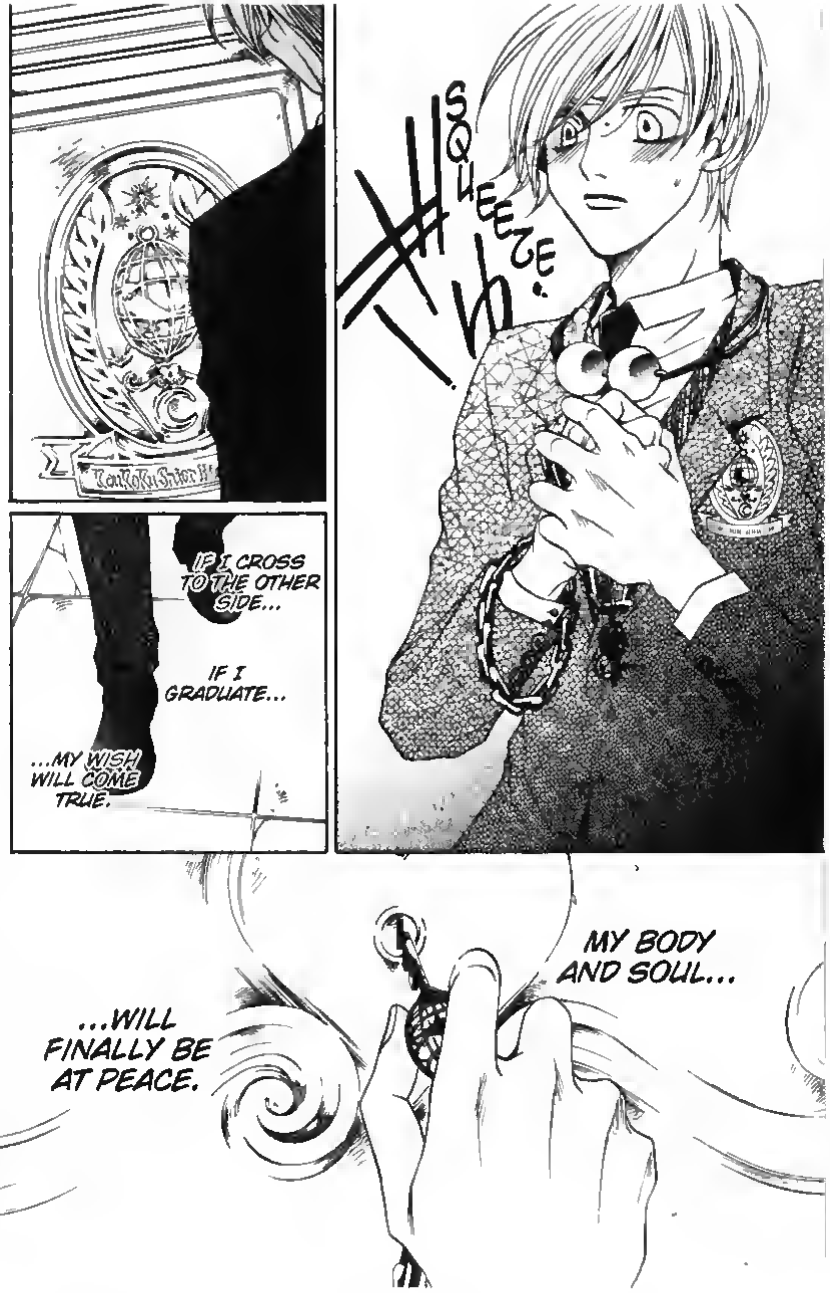
DRIBBLE
DRIBBLE
CLINK
SMASH
BOOM


THOOOM

SHE WON'T SUFFER.
SHE'LL NEVER EVEN KNOW YOU'RE GONE. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GRADUATE.
IT'S OKAY TO GRADUATE WHENEVER YOU LIKE.
YOU AREN'T HAPPY AS YOU ARE?

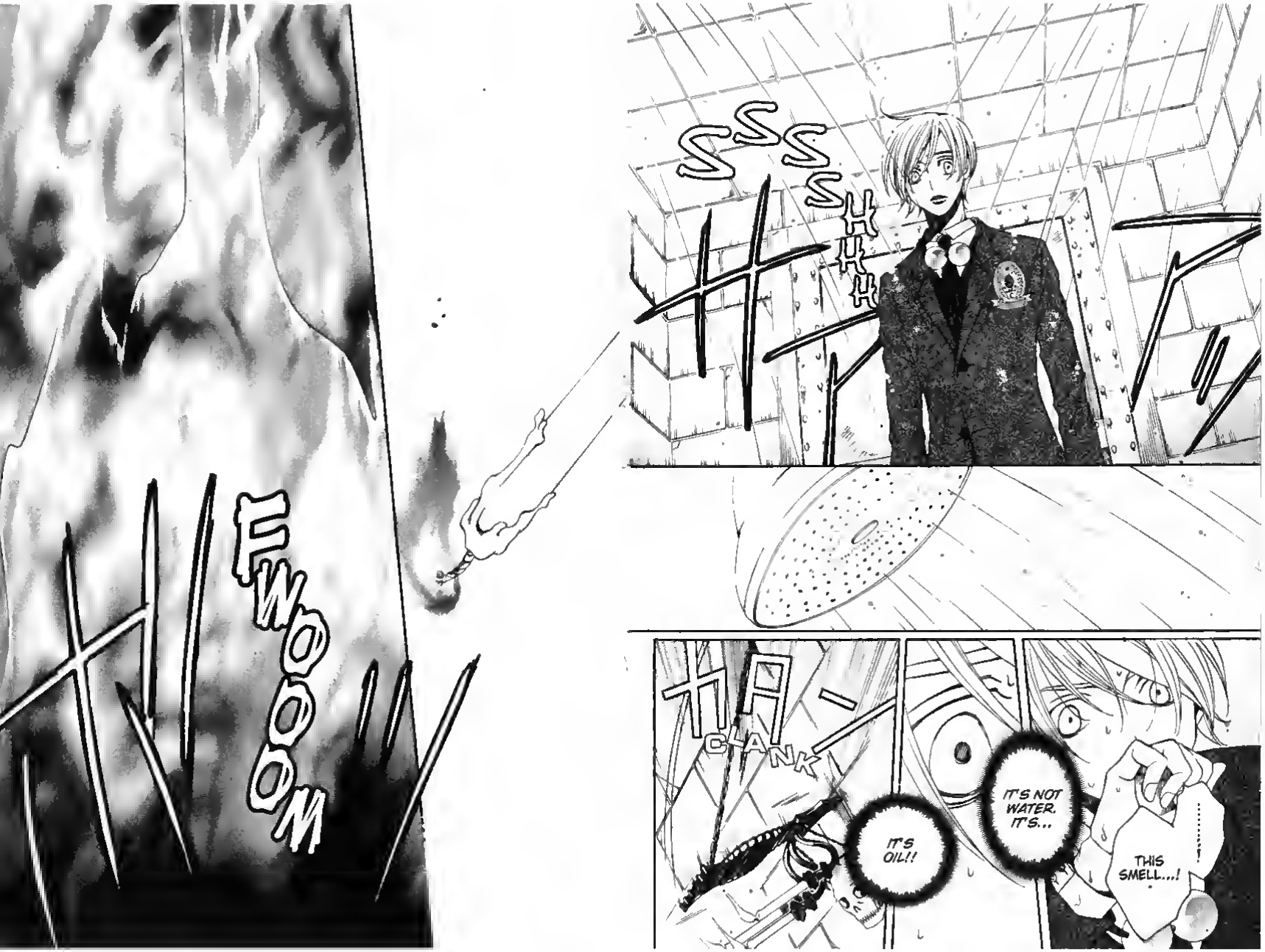

KanKoKu Sister High School
BEYOND THIS DOOR...
...IS THE WORLD YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO LIVE IN.




SQUEEZE
IF I CROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE...
IF I GRADUATE...
...MY WISH WILL COME TRUE.
MY BODY AND SOUL...
...WILL FINALLY BE AT PEACE.

TWO MORE.
IF I BREAK THE BEADS...
...I CAN WAKE UP FROM THIS DREAM.
JUST TWO MORE...
CREAK
SLAM

...NO!
CLANG
NO, I DON'T WANT THIS!!
NO!!


FWOOOM
SSSSHHHH
CLANK
IT'S OIL!!
IT'S NOT WATER. IT'S...
THIS SMELL...!

SHOULD I SAVE YOU?

AH!!
AAAAAAH!!
FOOOOM
AAAH!!

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

MASHIRO-KUN.
GOOD MORNING. ♡
...MORNING.

EVEN NOW, I...
...STILL THINK THAT...
...SOU HAD A NICE VOICE.
I HATED TO ADMIT IT, BUT...
...I COULDN'T HELP THINKING...
Wilt thou be gone?
it is not yet near day:
It was the nightingale, and not the lark,
That pierced the fearful hollow of thine ear;
ROMEO AND JULIET
A SOUND THAT MADE THE STEEL OF HIS SUIT TREMBLE.
THAT'S WHY I COULD NEVER TELL.
NOT LIKE AN ADULT, OR A CHILD.
IT SOUNDED NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE.
THE KNIGHT DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A VOICE IN THE DREAMS. IT WAS MORE OF A FEELING, A VIBRATION.

Come, death,
and welcome!
Juliet wills it so.
IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH ME ANYMORE.
IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
...AND SHE OF HIM...
HOW HE SPEAKS OF HIS SISTER...
I WON'T FORGIVE THE THINGS HE'S DREAMED.

Let me be ta'en,
let me be put to death;
IT CAN'T BE HIS BY CHOICE.
THERE MUST BE A REASON HE WEARS THAT FORM.
AND KUREHA RELIVES THE WORST MOMENT OF HER LIFE, FIGHTING BACK WITH THE ONLY WEAPON AT HAND.
IN THE DREAMS I WEAR A GIRL'S UNIFORM.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
HAVE I AFFECTED HIM AT ALL...?
I ALWAYS BELIEVED THE EVERY-ONE NEEDS A SOURCE OF STRENGTH.
AND WHAT IF I NEED YOU!?

I COULDN'T ANSWER A SINGLE QUESTION.
REALLY, HOW MEAN WAS THAT? THAT POP QUIZ WAS TOTALLY UNFAIR.
I'M NOT SMUG.
YOU MEANIE! DON'T LOOK SO SMUG!
WE HADN'T COVERED ANY OF IT IN CLASS. IT SUCKED!
YEAH.
...RE-ALLY?
I'M JUST SO GLAD TO BE WITH YOU, KUREHA.

I WON'T FORGIVE HIM.
I CAN'T STAND HIM!
THEY DISGUST ME.
I HATE HIM.
I WON'T FORGIVE HIM...
I CAN'T STAND HIM...

This is the original long-haired version of Mashiro. "That picture kind of gives me goose bumps," and "It's hard to imagine a kid who doesn't want to be a girl keeping his hair that long," were the criticisms that came up to make me scrap the design.

There's just something so adult about it...

Also, there was a time while designing the girls' uniforms that I was considering doing a sailor version.

I think a sailor outfit would match this hair style very well.

But it wouldn't be right to have this character look good in a sailor suit, for the storyline at least.

I WANT TO GRANT IT FOR YOU.
IF THERE'S ANY WISH YOU HAVE.
KUREHA.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, JUST SAY SO.
THAT'S A CHARMING THING TO SAY.

I'M NOT A PRINCESS. I DON'T NEED A PRINCE
GIRLS GROW INTO WOMEN...
...AND BOYS GROW INTO MEN.
WILL YOU...
...GROW UP, MASHIRO-KUN?
.....
I...
.....
KUREHA, I...NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
WOULD IT BE MORE CONVENIENT IF I HADN'T?
.....!
THAT'S NOT IT...!
I JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE AFRAID OF MEN, KUREHA.
I AM AFRAID, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN KEEP HIDING FOREVER!

I KNOW ABOUT YOUR BODY...
...BUT IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BECOME A GUY...
...SHOULDN'T THERE BE SOMETHING INSIDE YOU THAT REALLY WANTS TO BE WITH ME, NO MATTER WHAT?

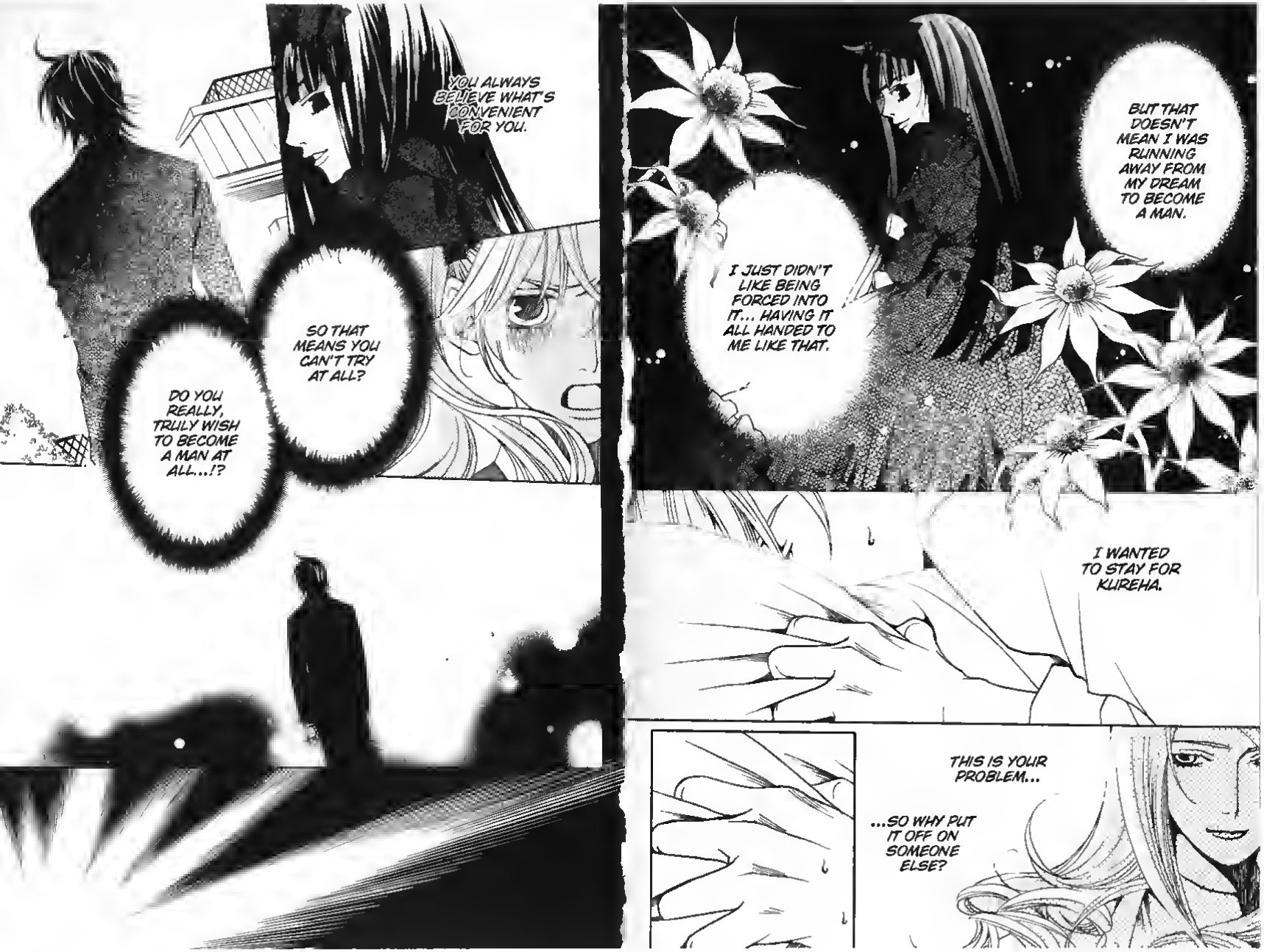
WE'LL NEVER GO ANY FURTHER THAN THIS!
YOU WANT TO KEEP EVERYTHING PRETTY AND INNOCENT...
...SO YOU CAN KEEP PLAYING THE PRINCE.

I WANT TO GROW UP.
I WANT TO GROW INTO A MATURE WOMAN!
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SHARE EVERYTHING WITH THE ONE I LOVE.

...BUT, KUREHA...
MY BODY ISN'T EXACTLY... RIGHT.
SO...
SO THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T TRY AT ALL? WHY!?

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS FORCE ME TO SAY WHAT I WANT, MASHIRO-KUN?
IT'S BECAUSE WHAT I WANT JUST DOESN'T OCCUR TO YOU, RIGHT!?

DO YOU REALLY, TRULY WISH...
...TO BECOME A MAN AT ALL...!?
I...
...RAN AWAY FROM GRADUATING.


YOU ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT'S CONVENIENT FOR YOU.
SO THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T TRY AT ALL?
DO YOU REALLY, TRULY WISH TO BECOME A MAN AT ALL...!?
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM MY DREAM TO BECOME A MAN.
I JUST DIDN'T LIKE BEING FORCED INTO IT... HAVING IT ALL HANDED TO ME LIKE THAT.
I WANTED TO STAY FOR KUREHA.
THIS IS YOUR PROBLEM...
...SO WHY PUT IT OFF ON SOMEONE ELSE?

EVERYTHING I'VE DONE UP TO NOW HAS LED ME HERE.
I'M...
...READY.

!
CLINK
TWIST
!!

CLINK
...GOOD AT BEING YELLED AT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE ACCUSED HIM...
I KNOW MASHIRO-KUN ISN'T...
...WHY DID I HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT?
.....?
RUSTLE

BLUSH
...SO MUCH OLDER WITH YOUR HAIR DOWN. IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
YOU LOOK...
.....
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE...?
...MASHIRO-KUN.
...THREW AWAY THE CHANCE TO GRADUATE BECAUSE I HAVE YOU.
I...
KUREHA.
LET ME PROVE IT.
TO STAY WITH YOU.

IF I'M CAUGHT, WE'RE BOTH IN BIG TROUBLE.
AH...!
SSSHH!
...MASHIRO-KUN!!

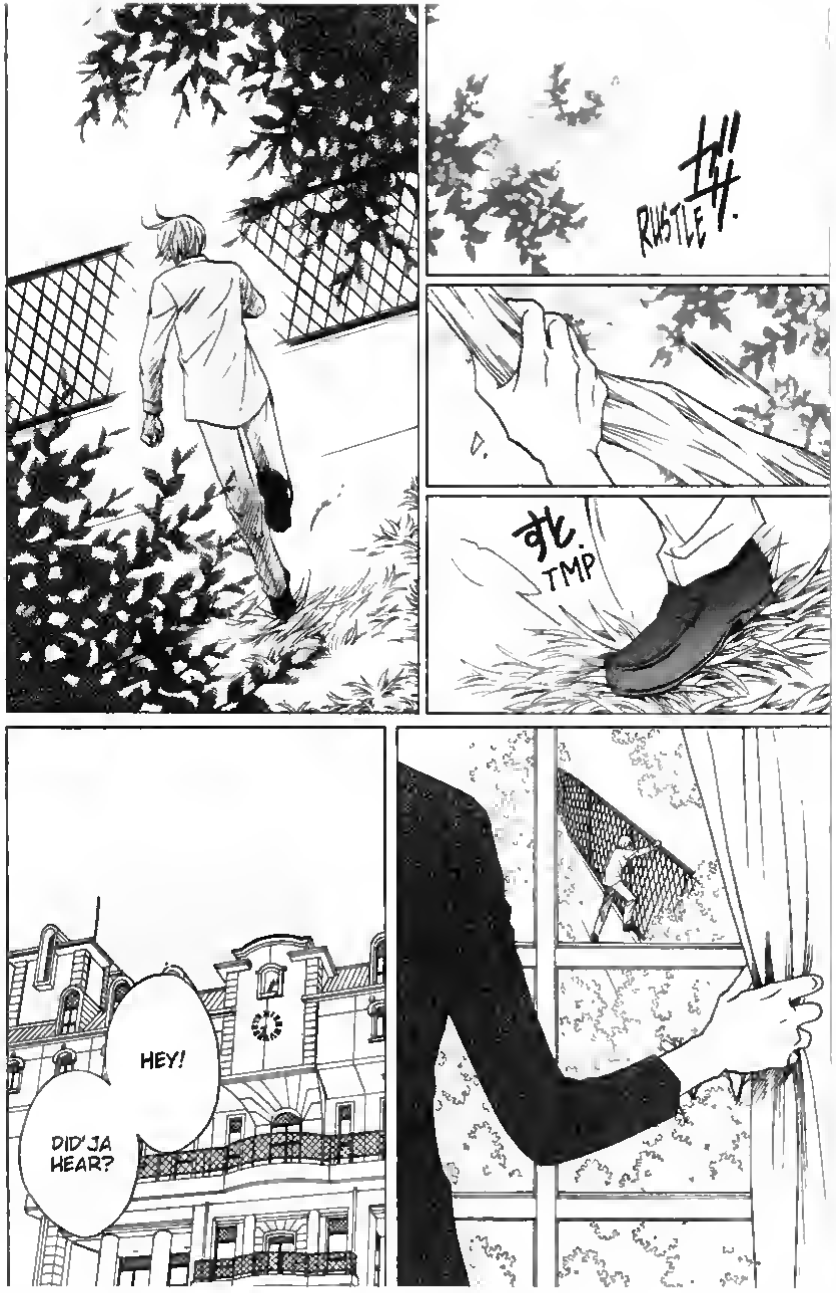
Chapter 19 / OVER

SSSHHH
I FINALLY WON!!
I BEAT YOU ALL!!
EVEN THOUGH YOU WALKED ALL OVER ME. EVEN THOUGH YOU SAID I COULDN'T WIN! I BEAT YOU!
... KUREHA.
KUREHA!!

I'M NOT AFRAID. THIS IS WHAT I WANT.
I WANTED TO FALL IN LOVE, TO OPEN UP TO SOMEONE. TO SHOW HIM EVERYTHING. TO BE HAPPY.
I WANT TO BE A NORMAL GIRL.
SSSHHH

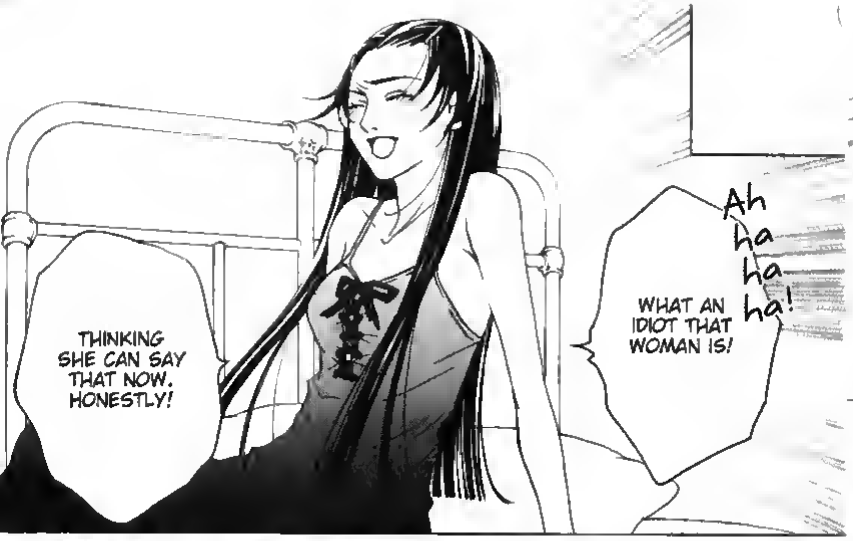
Wilt thou be gone?
It was the nightingale, and not the lark.
YOU REMEMBERED A LOT...
WELL, WE JUST STUDIED IT YESTERDAY.
I SHOULD GET BACK NOW, THOUGH.
WHEN IT GETS LIGHT OUT, SOMEBODY COULD SEE ME.
GASP
ARE YOU OKAY, KUREHA?
IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING A NIGHTMARE...
I LOVE YOU.
KUREHA...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT'S EVER SEEN ME...
...IT'S NOTHING.
I JUST WOKE UP.
I WAS WATCHING YOU SLEEP. ♡
MA...
MASHIRO-KUN... HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN UP?
HUG!

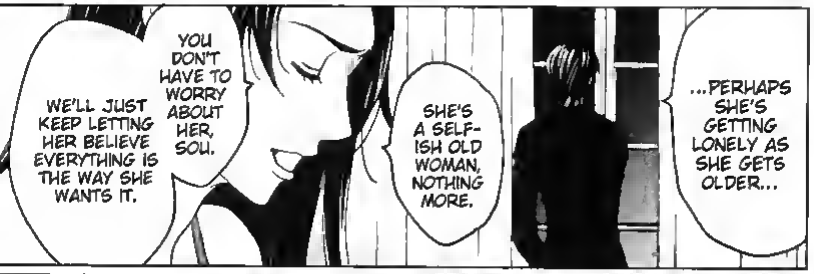
SHE SAID SHE SAW SOMEONE...
MASHIRO-KUN WAS LEAVING KUREHA'S ROOM THIS MORNING...
キャー!!
YOU KNOW...
WHAT? WHAT HAP-PENED?
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS...
FOR REAL?
BUT EVEN A GIRL LIKE HER'S GONNA HAVE THOSE KINDS OF URGES...
SHE DID! SHE TOTALLY DID!
Aha ha!
BUT DIDN'T FUJISHIMA-SAN ALWAYS SAY SHE HATED MEN?
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THEY'D DO IT.
WELL, THEY ARE CRAZY LOVEBIRDS, THOSE TWO.


14
RUSTLE
すた
TMP
HEY!
DID'JA HEAR?

OFFICE
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, SOU! IT'S SO GOOD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!
HELLO?
...MOTHER?
NEED?
COME NOW, SOU.
COME VISIT SOMETIME. I WANT TO SEE YOU!
...DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?
...I'M BUSY WITH MY CLUB...
CLUB? OH, I REMEMBER... JUDO, RIGHT?
I TRIED CALLING YOUR CELL PHONE, BUT YOU NEVER ANSWER!
WELL...
YOU CALLED MY DORM JUST TO TELL ME THAT?
AI'S THE SAME WAY, SHE NEVER CALLS ME. I CAN'T STAND IT!
I KNOW YOU GET LONELY, SOU.
AREN'T YOU LONELY?
THIS TIME I PROMISE I'LL TAKE TIME OFF.
THAT WAS YEARS AGO! I ALREADY APOLOGIZED, DIDN'T I?
IT WOULDN'T MATTER IF I CAME HOME. YOU'RE ALWAYS BUSY.
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT.

SQUEEL
SQUEEL
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "URGES"!?
YOU ARE DIRTY!!
SOU MIZUHASHI-KUN.
SOU MIZUHASHI-KUN.
YOU HAVE A CALL.
PLEASE REPORT TO THE FRONT OFFICE...
BIING BOOONG BIING


THINKING SHE CAN SAY THAT NOW. HONESTLY!
WHAT AN IDIOT THAT WOMAN IS!
Ah ha ha ha!


WE'LL JUST KEEP LETTING HER BELIEVE EVERYTHING IS THE WAY SHE WANTS IT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HER, SOU.
SHE'S A SELF-ISH OLD WOMAN, NOTHING MORE.
...PERHAPS SHE'S GETTING LONELY AS SHE GETS OLDER...

...DOESN'T HAVE ANY IDEA HOW THE REST OF US FEEL.
THAT WOM-AN...
AND WHY WOULD I!?
THAT WORRIED ME...
Ha ha ha ha!
SHE SAID YOU NEVER CALL HER.

SOU, YOU SEE YOUR SISTER SOMETIMES, RIGHT?
TELL HER I MISS HER, TOO. TELL HER SHE SHOULD VISIT ME...
I DON'T SEE HER.

I DON'T...
...SEE MY SISTER.

IT'S BETTER THAT WAY.
WE'RE LEADING TWO SEPARATE LIVES.
HOW KIND OF YOU, SOU..
YOU'RE DEFENDING HIM?
YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY ANYMORE.
I'M GOING...
...TO SETTLE THIS MYSELF.

SOU.
ANYWAY...
JUST LEAVE HER BE.
I'M SORRY.
I COULDN'T GET MASHIRO ICHIJO TO GRADUATE.
I COULDN'T MAKE HIM DISAPPEAR FROM YOUR LIFE...

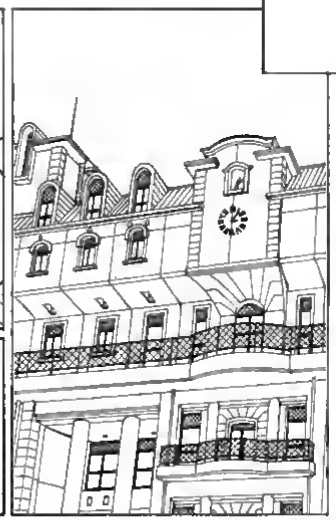
EVERYONE IS.
HE'S REALLY VERY SELF-CENTERED.
WHY DOESN'T HE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LONGER HE HANGS AROUND, THE MORE HE HURTS YOU?
I KNOW HE GOT THE KEY. I KNOW IT.
BUT HE RAN AWAY.
SO WHAT?
EVERYONE IS SELFISH

Sou's visual image was still pretty vague at the start of serialization. I pretty much decided that he'd have black hair, but as for what his expression was like, I had no ideas in mind. At that time, my editor was talking about her favorite actor and then I thought, "Oh, let's try and give him that look." And before you know it, the rest of the image fleshed itself out.

For the splash page announcing the start of the serialization, his design was still not done. I kept thinking, "Who is this?" when I looked at him.

It seems I gave him plenty of forehead and double-fold eyelids before the finalized version.*

*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

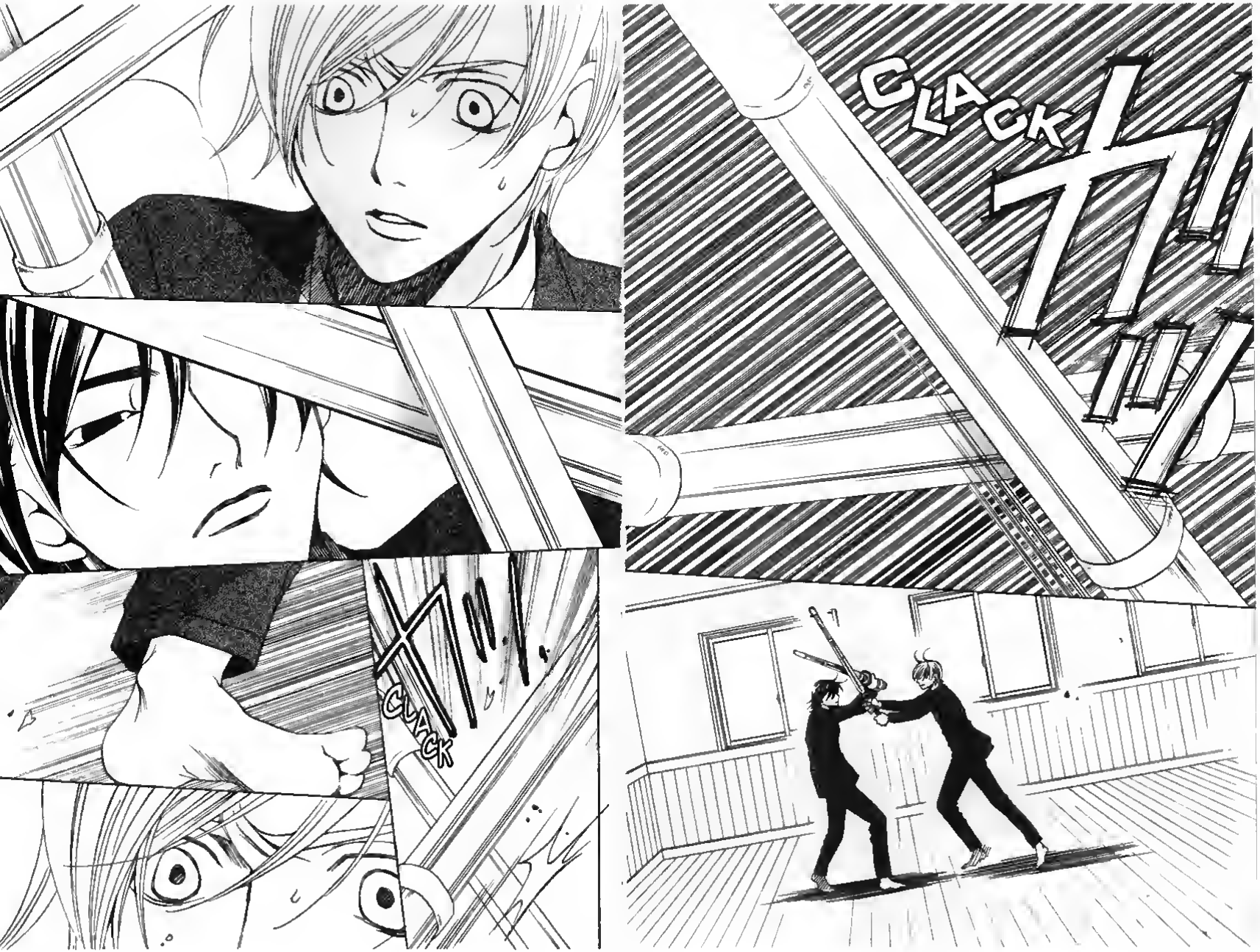


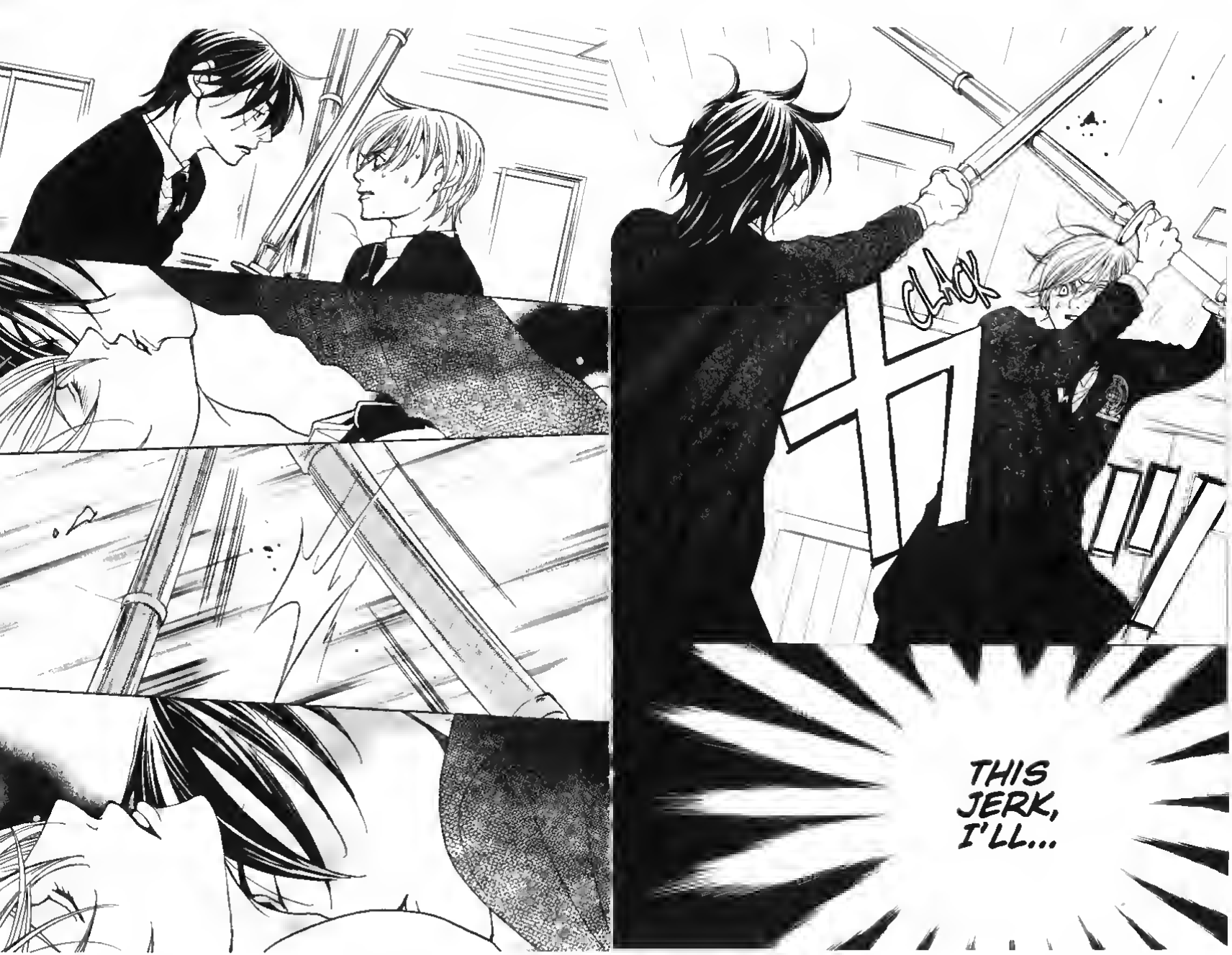
YOUR SISTER TOLD ME.
THE KNIGHT IN OUR DREAMS...
...WAS YOU ALL ALONG.
...HOW DARE YOU.
...EVERYTHING YOU DID TO ME...!
...SOU!

WHEN YOU SAID YOU LIKED ME...
...WAS IT A LIE!?
HOW COULD YOU TREAT ME LIKE THAT IN THE DREAM WORLD!?
GOOD QUES-TION.
MAYBE BECAUSE YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR-SELF IN A DREAM.
I GUESS THOSE WERE MY TRUE FEELINGS.
YOUR VERY EXISTENCE IRRITATED ME.
JUST LIKE IT'S DOING NOW.
ARE YOU GOING AROUND FIND-ING FAULT WITH EVERY SINGLE DREAMER?
PATHETIC.
WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO DON'T STEP FORWARD BE-CAUSE THEY DIDN'T WANT TO SHOW THEM-SELVES?
GOOD FOR YOU.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN...
...ABOUT THE STATE OF MY HEART.
WHAT OF IT?
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
YOU GOT A PROBLEM?

GRADUATE AND DISAPPEAR, ALREADY.
YOU'VE GOT THE KEY, RIGHT? WHY'D YOU RUN AWAY?
I'M TIRED OF YOU HANGING AROUND SO THAT I KEEP RUNNING INTO YOU...!
SLAP
YOU DON'T GET TO TELL ME WHEN TO GRADUATE!!
...I WILL AFTER...
...I GET REVENGE FOR THAT PRACTICE FIGHT I LOST.
IF YOU CAN BEAT ME ONE MORE TIME...
...I'LL ACCEPT MY LOSS AND...
...GRADUATE!!
SO TAKE ME ON! NOW!!
THIS...
RIGHT NOW!!
THIS JERK...!!


CLACK
CLACK

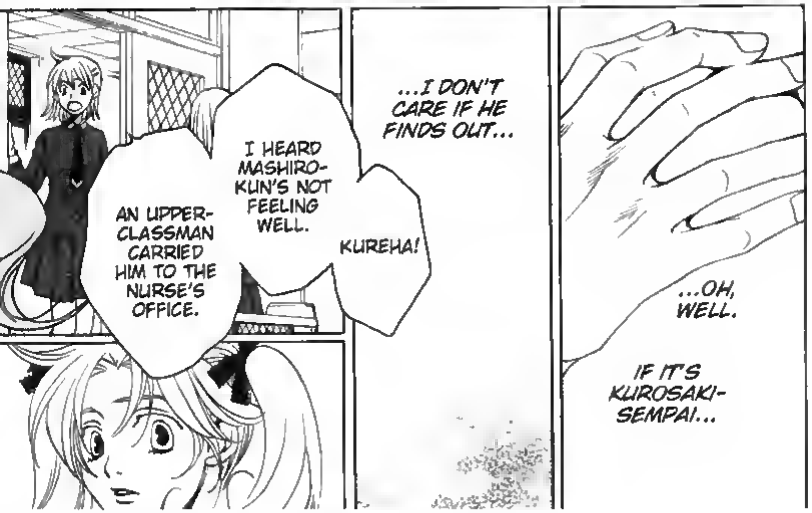

CLACK
THIS JERK, I'LL...

AU
TMP.
...BEAT HIM DOWN!!
I'LL GET EVEN FOR EVERY-THING!!
EVERY-THING!!

HEY, WHAT IS IT?
ARE YOU OKAY?
...IT'S NOTHI...
ICHIJO?
.....
OW...!
.....
HEY, SOU!!
DON'T THROW THAT FENCING STICK! PUT IT AWAY!
SOU!!
CLATTER

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING!?
PLEASE LET US FINISH!
I HAVE TO FINISH THIS RIGHT HERE AND NOW.
YOU CAN'T JUST USE THE DOJO WITHOUT PERMISSION!!
AND IN YOUR UNIFORMS NO LESS...!
BUT, SEM...
IF YOU WANT TO BRAWL, TAKE IT OUTSIDE!
YOU CAN'T JUST BEAT EACH OTHER UP HERE!

OH, GOD...
THIS IS BAD...
IF HE GETS TOO CLOSE, HE'LL FIND OUT ABOUT MY BODY.


AN UPPER-CLASSMAN CARRIED HIM TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
I HEARD MASHIRO-KUN'S NOT FEELING WELL.
KUREHA!
...I DON'T CARE IF HE FINDS OUT...
...OH, WELL.
IF IT'S KUROSAKI-SEMPAI...

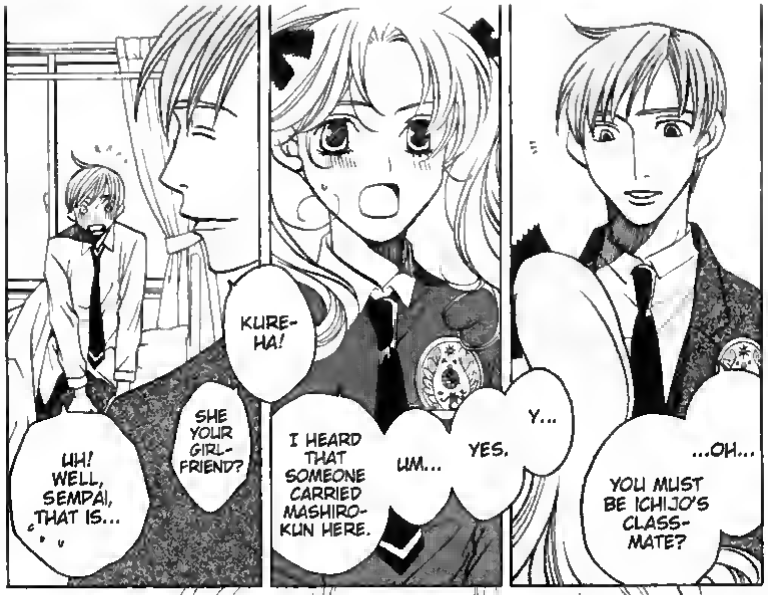
...IN THE DREAM!!
...SOU!!
WE'LL FINISH THIS FIGHT...

I SWE...
I SWEAR IT!!
I'LL SMASH YOUR ARMOR TO BITS!!

...GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE...
ICHIJO!
I'M... FI...
THUD
ICHIJO.
HEY.

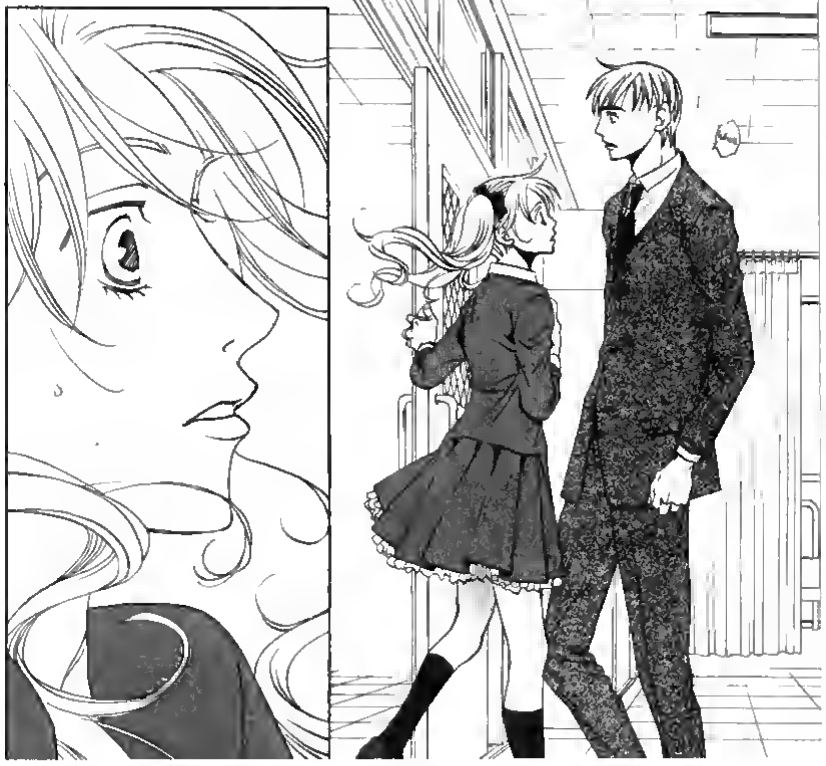
SEMPAI, YOU'RE...
...MY ROLE MODEL.
I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE YOU.
GENTLE...
KIND, AND UPRIGHT...
WITH THE POWER TO COMMAND ATTENTION FROM EVERYONE.
I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT LEADING PEOPLE.
I'M INDEPENDABLE.
I'M NOT REALLY THAT STRONG OR RELIABLE...
THAT'S HOW YOU SEE ME?
I'M FLATTERED, BUT...
...I DON'T DESERVE TO BE ANYBODY'S ROLE MODEL.
THAT HUMILITY GIVES ME HOPE THAT MAYBE ONE DAY I CAN BE LIKE YOU.
I'M GOING TO EMULATE THAT.

I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE...
AND FOR USING THE DOJO WITHOUT PERMISSION.
I APOLOGIZE.
IT'S OKAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BRING THAT UP NOW...
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M ALRIGHT.
IF I JUST REST A LITTLE, I SHOULD GET BETTER SOON...
YEAH?
WELL, I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT, BUT...
IT'S GOOD TO EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS HONESTLY BUT...
...THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO GO ABOUT IT, YOU KNOW?
FOR WHATEVER REASON, YOU WERE REALLY GOING AT IT WITH SOU.


KURE-HA!
SHE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
UH! WELL, SEMPAI, THAT IS...
I HEARD THAT SOMEONE CARRIED MASHIRO-KUN HERE.
UM...
YES.
Y...
...OH...
YOU MUST BE ICHIJO'S CLASS-MATE?

YES, I'M HIS GIRL-FRIEND!
TAKE CARE.
WELL, I'LL LET YOUR GIRLFRIEND TAKE IT FROM HERE.
NO PROB-LEM.
YOU CARRIED HIM HERE, RIGHT?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
BOW

MASHIRO-KUN, ARE YOU OKAY!?
RATTLE
I'M SURE THEY'LL COME TO GET YOU-
...I'LL LET YOUR CLASSMATES KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.



YOU MUST HATE IT.
PATHETIC IS WHAT IT IS...
HAVING A BOYFRIEND WHO GETS PERIOD CRAMPS.
SORRY?
ANYWAY, I'M SORRY..
...FOR GETTING SO SICK WITH THIS, AGAIN...
GOOD. ♡
YEAH... I THINK SO.
...BUT, I ACTED LIKE A NORMAL GIRL... DON'T YOU THINK?
I FROZE FOR A SECOND AT FINDING A HUGE, STRANGE GUY IN MY FACE...
YEAH...
HUH?
DON'T YOU THINK...
...I ACTED PRETTY NORMAL WITH HIM?
...HEY, MASHIRO-KUN.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...
...IN MY HEART I SEE YOU AS A FULL-FLEDGED GUY, MASHIRO-KUN.
IT WAS EASY TO TALK TO HIM, RIGHT?
KUROSAKI-SEMPAI, HE'S...A GENTLEMAN AND A GOOD GUY.
YEAH... I THINK SO.
YOU DIDN'T PANIC OR SNAP AT HIM OR ANYTHING.
HUH?
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, MASHIRO-KUN.
I GUESS SO...
AT LEAST I THINK SO... DON'T YOU AGREE, MASHIRO-KUN?
...I'M STARTING TO BELIEVE THAT I CAN BE A NORMAL GIRL, TOO...
BECAUSE I'M IN SUCH A DEEP RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU...
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...
...FOR GETTING SO EMOTIONAL AND CHALLENGING SOU TO THAT FIGHT.

I...
...CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE.
WHY?
YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD ALL THIS TIME.
YOU CAN STILL DO IT.
JUST KEEP A SMILE ON YOUR FACE AND KEEP MOVING FORWARD.
...SMILE, HUH?
THAT...
...WAS MY LAST FORTRESS...
...BUT...
NOT ANY MORE...

I WILL NEVER...
...LOSE TO SOU.
SENSEI...
UNTIL I CAN SEE THAT SHE'S READY WITH MY VERY EYES, I WON'T LEAVE HER.
I'LL HELP KUREHA GRADUATE.

In The Next Volume of AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE

Chapter 20 / OVER

Translator's Notes:

Pg. 32 – Hiwada and Fujikura
Two more color-names. "Hiwada" is a traditional Japanese color derived from the color of bark of the cypress tree. The "fuji" in "Fujikura" means "wisteria" and it denotes a light blue-violet color.

Pg. 66 – *obento*
A boxed lunch very popular with all ages. They usually include rice, fish or meat and pickled vegetables. Fabulous for an easy picnic!

Pg. 66 – *korokke*
Korokke are deep-friend snacks closely related to French *croquettes*. They are patty-shaped and can be filled with meat or vegetables in a creamy concoction.

Pg. 163 – double-fold eyelids
Japanese eyes do not usually have the same eyelid fold – called the epicanthic fold – that Caucasians do. It's pretty desired and Asian people sometimes even have surgery to get it put in. The fold-less look is somewhat classic to the Japanese.

Fold-less

Double-fold

AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE

THIS DREAM DRAWS BLOOD...

Things are heating up in both worlds! Determined to prove himself as a guy, Mashiro goes the distance to win Kureha. But will the new power of their bond survive the most shocking revelation so far – the true identity of the malevolent knight?

FROM THE CREATOR OF "X-DAY"!

$10.99 USA

$10.99
ISBN 978-1-933617-47-3
51099>
9 781933 617473

go!comi

visit our website at www.gocomi.com

RATED OT
OLDER TEEN
16+